

Private Polly

My life in the army page 15



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Bridget Jones: The holiday diet disaster

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THE INDEPENDENT

3,035

WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 1996

WEATHER Warm and dry with sunny spells

40p (UK 45p)

Exclusive: Robert Fisk tracks Saudi Arabia's most wanted man to his lair in Afghanistan

Arab rebel leader warns the British: 'Get out of the Gulf'

Osama Bin Laden, the fiercest opponent of the Saudi regime and of America's presence in the Gulf, has warned Britain that it must withdraw its servicemen from Saudi Arabia if it wishes to avoid the fate of the 19 Americans killed by a truck bomb in the Kingdom last month. In an interview with the *Independent* in a remote mountainous area of Afghanistan's Nangarhar province – to which he has returned from Sudan with hundreds of his Arab mujaheddin guerrillas – the 40-year Saudi dissident declared that killing the Americans marked "the beginning of war between Muslims and the United States".

Although taking no personal responsibility for the bombings, which have sent tremors through the vulnerable, oil-rich states of the Arabian peninsula, Mr Bin Laden insisted that the killing of the Americans in Khobar (Dhahran) just over two weeks ago demonstrated the depth of hatred for Americans in Saudi Arabia. "Not long ago, I gave advice to the Americans to withdraw their troops from Saudi Arabia," he said. "Now let us give some advice to the governments of Britain and France to take their troops out – because what happened in Riyadh and Khobar showed that the people who did this have a deep understanding in choosing their targets. They hit their main enemy, which is the Americans. They killed no secondary enemies, nor their brothers in the army or the police of Saudi Arabia. ... I give this advice to the government of Britain."

Bin Laden, most of whose immensely wealthy family have remained loyal to King Fahd, has been accused by Western and Arab governments of being "the financier of an Islamic international", training fighters to oppose the governments of Algeria and Egypt as well as Saudi Arabia. And in his long and sombre interview, he expressed his contempt for the Saudi monarchy and its failure to abide by Islamic sharia law, adding that the "evils" of the Middle East stemmed from America's attempt to take over the



Hunted: Osama Bin-Laden, pictured last week. The Saudi bombing was 'the beginning of war between Muslims and the United States', he said Photograph: Robert Fisk

region and from its support for Israel. My journey to him took me across miles of devastated villages and fields in the rocky mountainsides of the country where he once fought Soviet invaders, and he culminated in a remote village where dozens of his Arab mujaheddin, dressed in Afghan clothes, stood guard as he spoke.

In Saudi robes – and sitting next to his two teenage sons, Omar and Saad – Bin Laden revealed that he had arrived here from Sudan on May 18th, along with his fighters, after the Saudis and Americans had put pressure on the Khartoum military government to expel him. He claimed that he would carry on a campaign

from Afghanistan to set up a "true" Islamic state under sharia law in Saudi Arabia which, he said, had been turned into "an American colony". When I asked him if he was declaring war on the West, he replied: "It is not a declaration of war – it's a real description of the situation. This doesn't mean declaring war against

the West and Western people – but against the American regime which is against every Muslim." As he spoke, armed Egyptians, Saudis, Algerians and Afghans patrolled the night-time fields around us, their presence revealed by a single hissing gas lamp. At one point Mr Bin Laden broke off our conversation to pray, alongside his

Arabs, on straw matting laid out in the field. Every few minutes, gunfire could be heard from the mountains to the east. "The explosion in Khobar," he said, "did not come as a direct reaction to the American occupation but as a result of American behaviour against Muslims, its

support of Jews in Palestine [sic] and the massacre of Muslims in Palestine and Lebanon – of Sabra and Chatila and Qana – and of the Sharm el-Sheikh [anti-terrorist] conference." Mr Bin Laden's arrival back in Afghanistan after five and a half years in Sudan marks a new stage in the campaign of the Organisation of Advice and Reform.

He accused the Saudi royal family of promising sharia laws while allowing the United States "to westernise Saudi Arabia and drain the economy". He blamed the Saudi regime for spending \$25bn in support of Saddam Hussein in the Iran-Iraq war and a further \$60bn in support of the Western armies in the war against Iraq in 1991, "buying military equipment which is not needed or useful for the country, buying airplanes by credit" – while at the same time creating unemployment, high taxes and a bankrupt economy.

"The safest place in the world for me is Afghanistan," he said. When I suggested to Mr Bin Laden that Afghanistan was the only place – rather than the safest – in which he could campaign against the Saudi government, he and some of the Arab fighters around him burst into laughter. "There are other places," he replied.

Did he mean Tajikistan, I asked? Or Uzbekistan? Or Kazakhstan? "There are several places where we have friends and close brothers – we can find refuge and safety in them." When I said that he was already a hunted man, he dismissed my comment with contempt. "Danger is a part of our life – do you not realise that we spent 10 years fighting against the Russians and the KGB? ... When we were fighting the Russians here in Afghanistan, 10,000 Saudis came here to fight over a period of 10 years."

Osama Bin Laden clearly believes he now represents the most formidable enemy of the Saudi regime and of the American presence in the Gulf. Both are probably right to regard him as such.

Comment, page 14

'There will be bonfires across Ulster'



COLIN BROWN and MICHAEL STREETER

Troop reinforcements were ordered to Northern Ireland as Unionist leaders warned the Prime Minister that Ulster was a "powder keg" which could erupt tomorrow into the worst violence witnessed in the Province since the Troubles began, 25 years ago.

A third battalion of around 600 troops was preparing to leave Britain as the stand-off between the security forces and Orangemen at Drumcree threatened to escalate into widespread violence. "There will be bonfires across Ulster," said one Unionist leader.

The little churchyard at Drumcree, where Orangemen

and police were facing each other across a barricade of concrete and barbed wire, could mark a disaster, with the potential for reducing the peace process to ruins, and putting at risk the survival of John Major's Government in the Commons.

As the tension heightened, Mr Major gave his total backing to the decision by Sir Hugh Annesley, the Chief Constable of the RUC, to halt the Orangemen's march at Drumcree, in Portadown, which has led to three days of confrontation and violence across Ulster.

Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, and Robert McCartney, the Independent Unionist MP, held an emer-

gency meeting with the Prime Minister in his room at the Commons, to press for a climb-down by the security forces.

They warned Mr Major there could be up to 80,000 Orangemen at Portadown on Friday. "It is a powder keg which could only be resolved when a decision is taken by the Prime Minister," said Mr Paisley. "There will be civil commotion. This is serious and it is getting more serious."

But Mr Major insisted on backing the operational decisions of the RUC. In the Commons, Mr Major condemned the violence as "indefensible" and warned that it could set back the search for peace, but the cross-party talks have become a side-issue in the con-

frontation leading up to the marching day of 12 July, to mark the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne.

The violence in the early hours of yesterday morning, which is likely to cost the Province's economy and tourist industry millions of pounds, saw some of Belfast's worst loyalist violence for many years.

Two Catholic schools were damaged in fires and four Catholic families were forced to leave their homes in the Old Park area after intimidation by gangs of loyalists. One of the Catholic residents left at Torrington Drive, Maria Darragh, said she would now have to leave the area as well. She said: "In the end, the fact is that I am a Catholic living in a Protestant

area. We are just going to have to go."

The intimidation and burning of homes was attacked as "ethnic cleansing" by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, in the House of Commons.

Some MPs believe Unionist leaders are partly responsible for fanning the flames. Mr Trimble has appeared on the Orangemen's front line, although he has been appealing for restraint.

Confrontation with the Unionist MPs on whom Mr Major may have to depend increased the threat of defeat in the Commons. His one-seat majority could be put to the test before the end of the month.

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Why flash boys shine at A-level

JUDITH JUDG Education Editor

Boys have flair. Girls lack sparkle. Boys take risks. Girls work hard. It may sound like stereotyping, but the differences, according to new research, may hold the clue to the performance of the sexes in exams.

Researchers from London and Leicester universities investigated why boys outperform girls in the top grades at A-level even though girls are ahead at GCSE. They concluded that the explanation may lie partly in the style of the exams. While GCSE appears to reward hard work and good organisation, A-level seems to require flair and confidence.

And at A-level, they suggest, boys' faith in their ability may override their lack of knowledge and skill.

Concern about the different performance of the sexes in exams has been growing. A report to be published today by the Office for Standards in Education will suggest strategies to help schools eliminate the gender divide.

Teachers questioned by the London and Leicester researchers talked of boys' "risk-taking approach, their greater willingness to sound stupid." Girls, they said, "write at length, lack the courage to discard irrelevant detail and perform less well in traditional exams."

At GCSE, girls gain 8 per cent more A-to-C grades than boys in all subjects. But at A-level boys do better, given their GCSE results, than do girls.

In English Literature girls are ahead at GCSE but boys get a higher proportion of A and B grades at A-level. In A-level maths, boys maintain the lead

they had at GCSE in A grades but lose their lead in B grades. In physics GCSE, girls are ahead at grades A and B, while at A-level boys get more A grades with girls still ahead at grade B.

Jannette Elwood, of London University's Institute of Education, and Chris Comer, of Leicester University's School of Education, looked at nearly 3,000 exam scripts, 200 questionnaires from school department heads and nine school case studies.

According to teachers who were questioned about the attributes of boys and girls, confidence is the only characteristic in which boys outclass girls.

However, the teachers observed clear differences of approach to A-level work. In English, one teacher commented: "The boys go through it like a Panzer division. Their

writing is very clinical, point, point, point. Girls are much more if this then that and I might think this and I might think that ..."

The study examined the idea that girls do better than boys in coursework and found that in English they did slightly better. But the researchers point out that coursework plays only a small part in the final result.

Most types of literature are equally appealing to both sexes, teachers said, though boys have some difficulty with women poets and, to a lesser extent, women novelists such as Bronte and Woolf.

Jannette Elwood said: "If what is required at A-level is different from what is required at GCSE then teachers need to communicate this to students. Teachers could do more to explain the nature of assessment at A-level to girls."

QUICKLY

Machete arrest

A man was arrested in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, last night after police conducted a massive search of the town, following Monday's attack at St Luke's infants' school.

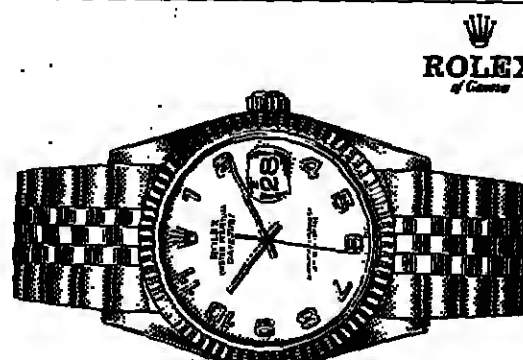
Three children and four adults were still in hospital receiving treatment for their injuries. Page 4

Cancer breakthrough

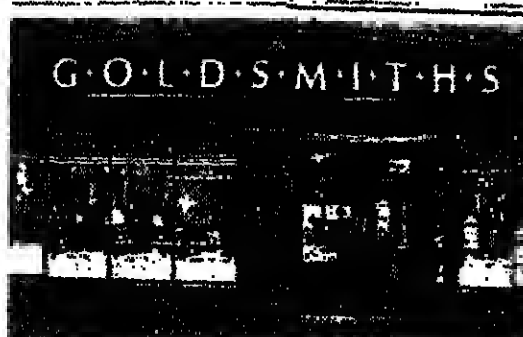
A new treatment for breast cancer has been discovered at the Royal Marsden NHS Trust where doctors believe they may have found a safe, effective treatment for the disease which kills 13,000 women in Britain each year. Page 5

Viewing displeasure

The Broadcasting Standards Council yesterday highlighted the trend towards humiliating pranks and practical jokes in top-rated television programmes. Page 7



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Orangemen dig in at Drumcree as Catholics flee their homes

MICHAEL STREETER
and JOJO MOYES

Police in Northern Ireland were bracing themselves for further conflict today as the stand-off at Drumcree, Co. Armagh, entered its fourth day.

Several hundred Orangemen were gathered near the church where the Royal Ulster Constabulary has erected a blockade to prevent them from marching back into Portadown through a Catholic area.

The scene was calm last night but thousands more Orangemen from across the province were expected to boost the numbers during the evening in a head-to-head confrontation across a barbed wire and concrete fence. Organisers have provided a marquee to protect demonstrators from the rain and laid on substantial catering facilities.

As the day wore on, Orangemen repeated their protest of Monday by blocking scores of routes throughout the province, including major roads in Belfast. The town of Coleraine was believed to be cut off by road.

The RUC was also monitoring routes to the main international airport at Aldergrove, which Orangemen were believed to be targeting as they did 24 hours earlier when they blocked access routes leaving hundreds of people stranded.

A police spokesman said: "We have no reports at the moment of protests at the airport, but the situation is very fluid."

He added: "We cannot be in two places at once. Judging on yesterday's experience we can probably expect some more blockades, demonstrations and some hijacking of vehicles."

The ugly scenes in the early hours of yesterday morning - which are likely to cost the province's economy and tourist industry millions of pounds - saw some of Belfast's worst loyalist violence for many years. Two Catholic schools were dam-

aged in fires and four Catholic families were forced to leave their homes in the Old Park area after intimidation by gangs of loyalists.

One of the remaining Catholic residents, Maria Darragh, said she would also have to leave. "In the end, the fact is that I am a Catholic living in a Protestant area. We are just going to have to go."

Some of the worst violence occurred in the staunchly loyalist area of Sandy Row after midnight yesterday when the fuel tank of a RUC Land-Rover exploded, slightly injuring a news photographer.

During the night, police wearing riot gear fought running street battles with gangs of loyalist youths. There were also clashes between loyalist and nationalist gangs in the town of Allanslogh, with reports of shot-gun rounds being fired off.

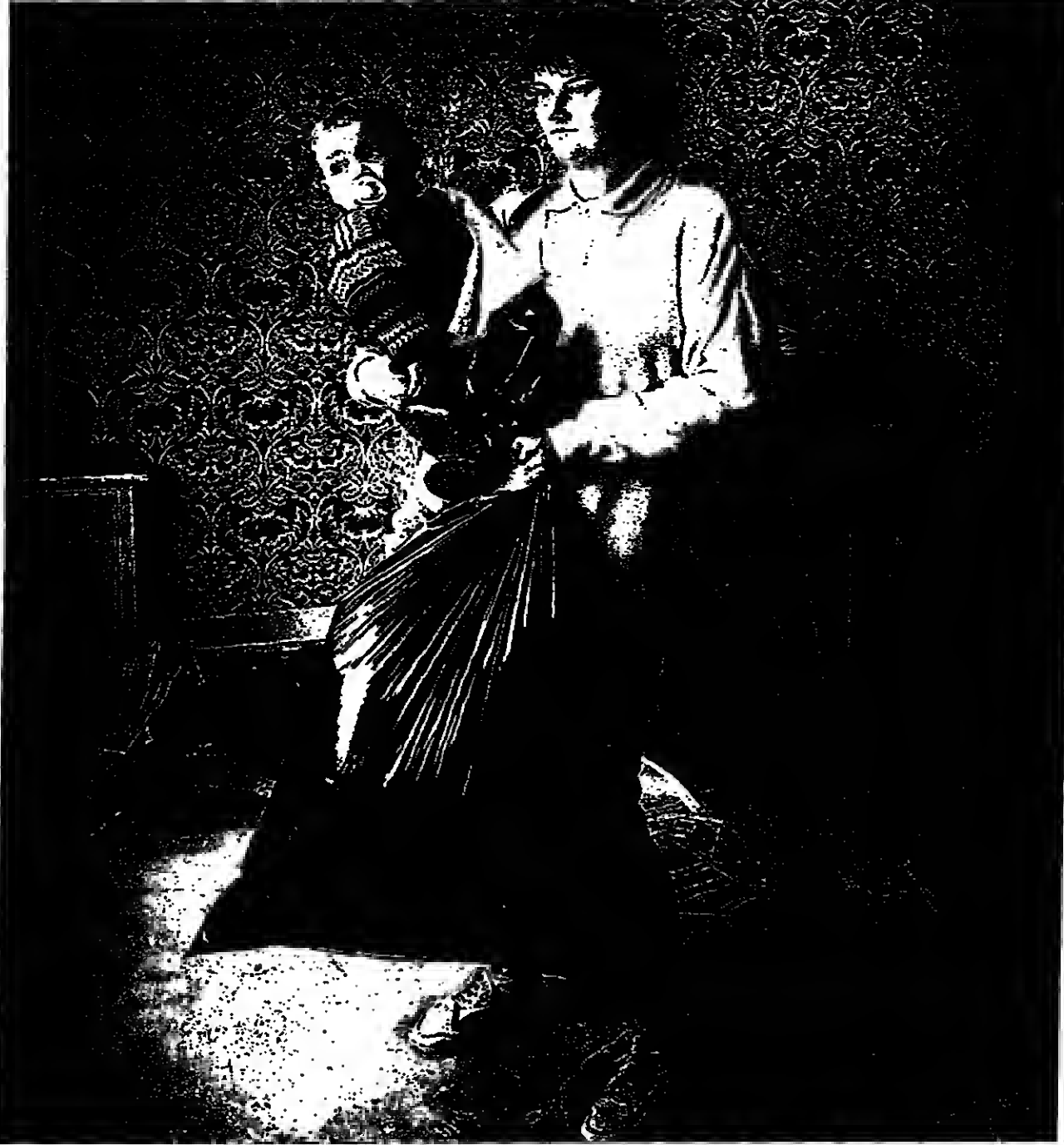
The outbreak of violence was condemned on all sides. Unionist leaders called on followers to exercise restraint, but the Assistant Grand Master of the Order of Orangemen, Jeffrey Donaldson, warned that further protests were being planned throughout the province in the run up to 12 July - the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne.

The RUC closed all routes to the international airport yesterday. The previous night's trouble meant that airport staff and some passengers had been forced to spend the night there.

Across the province, road-blocks appeared on many major routes. Announcements from the "Orange Information Service" warned that Larne docks, and all roads between Drumcree and Omagh were affected.

Meanwhile hotels and tourist boards revealed that many visitors were leaving the province.

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board said it had received reports that many visitors were cutting short their trips because of the fear of further violence and disruption.



In search of safety: Cathy Officer and her 1-year-old son Connor prepare to leave the Catholic Old Park area of Belfast after the outbreak of sectarian attacks. Photograph: Paul Faith/Pace-maker

Little known mediators bid to defuse threat of violence

JOJO MOYES

As political leaders became further entrenched in their stand-off last night, it emerged that talks were taking place at a local level to try to defuse the threat of another night of violence in the province.

Central to these appeared to be the independent organisation The Mediation Network of Northern Ireland, which, according to sources, had been at Drumcree all day trying to broker a compromise.

The Mediation Network, a little known organisation set up in the 1980s to reduce conflict in the province, was credited with averting a full-scale riot in Portadown last year when Orangemen, local residents and the RUC became stuck in an impasse over the marching route.

Headed by Brendan McCallister, a Catholic father of three and Joe Campbell, a Presbyterian elder and full-time mediator, the organisation is partly funded by the Belfast

Community Relations Council and the Joseph Rowntree Trust.

Also at Drumcree yesterday were Robin Eames, Primate of the Church of Ireland, and the Presbyterian Moderator, Harry Allen, who urged leaders to avoid words or actions that would further inflame the already precarious stand-off.

"We've got to try and reach some sort of agreement whereby the rights and privileges of two communities much wider than Drumcree are recognised and are seen to be treated fairly," Dr Eames said.

But many local leaders were not optimistic about the immediate prospects for a compromise. Brendan MacCionnaith, of the Garvaghy Road Residents Association, said last night: "There's nothing to mediate about. It's between Unionists and the RUC. As far as we're concerned the Orangemen should pack up their bags and go home now. Mr

Trimble himself ruled out compromise (along the lines of last year) because of his behaviour afterwards. That compromise has been ruled out by the community."

The SDLP councillor Ignatius Fox said from Portadown last night that he had given out an invitation for talks yesterday morning but that it had not been taken up. "It seems the situation is remaining the same as the last 12 months," he said.

Meanwhile Jeffrey Donaldson, assistant grandmaster of the Orange Order, was last night equally insistent that there would be no negotiations between the groups.

"It's not our policy to negotiate with any people who have connections with Sinn Féin and the IRA," he said. Asked if there was any hope of a peace settlement, he said: "Well it will come some time. We hope it will come sooner rather than later." But he insisted that the Orangemen would still march down the Garvaghy route.

Sombre Belfast surveys the wreckage of peace process

MICHAEL STREETER

A silent anger simmered in Belfast's Sandy Row last night. Staunch but law-abiding loyalists fumed at what they called extremists in their own camp, terrified that 18 months of peace is crumbling away before their eyes.

One shopkeeper, who asked not to be named, discovered a burning car near his store when he opened up yesterday, the result of a petrol bombing by loyalist groups in the early hours.

Surveying the remains of the vehicle he said despondently: "It's an understatement to say we are upset that the violence has come back from whatever side."

"The silent majority - that 96 per cent of us - don't want to know about it. But no one seems to hear us. We want peace. All this is going to do is drive away business from Belfast. And no one will win from that."

The mood in the streets, some of them still barred by police road-blocks, was sombre.

THE PEOPLE

Bank worker Barbara Coulson, 38, a Protestant, said the root of the problem, the catalyst, was the "siege" of Drumcree. "Why go out and seek confrontation by going through a nationalist area? It was bound to lead to violence as has been shown. It's just ridiculous."

Not everyone agreed. Some elderly loyalists said the nationalists were getting a taste of their own medicine. "They've had it coming for a long time," said one elderly woman. "We've put up with too much for 25 years."

Like many, while she did not support violence, she feared more was on the way.

Jim Ewart, 29, was more sanguine: "It's always more tense in the build-up to the 12 July [the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne]. Hopefully it will just blow away after that."

Across the divide, in the Catholic Falls Road, there was blame for the politicians, scorn

for the Unionists and a faint hope for a peaceful resolution.

Sean Smith, 44, said: "The Unionists have got used to having everything their own way. Why don't they march in their own areas as we do?"

John Major should deliver a stiff message to the Unionist leaders, he said. "He should tell them he will send in the Paras to show they are not going to get away with it as they tried to do with us."

He said ordinary people like himself were not Sinn Féin or IRA supporters and just wanted a peaceful life. But he added: "I don't believe now that co-existence can work. Things are going too far. There's only one way this will be resolved and that's by civil war. It's not what I want, but I think that will happen."

Tony Lavery, a caretaker, saw the Unionist blockade of airports and roads as a direct threat to the nationalists and as an omen. "It is as if they are hemming us in and I think this will be their plan for the future."

Police still seeking boys after murder of girl, 9

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The nine-year-old girl found battered to death on a railway line may have been with a teenage boy on a bicycle shortly before she died, it was revealed yesterday.

A girl that matched the description of Jade Matthews was

reported riding with a slight head wound and blood on her teeth with the boy, who is believed to be about 13, close to the spot her body was found in Bootle, Merseyside.

News of the sighting came as her natural father, Alan Priest, 34, was released after 30 hours of questioning. Detectives are still seeking three boys, aged

nine to 14 who were seen on the railway line at about 8pm on Sunday, around the time of the murder.

Merseyside police announced that Mr Priest had been released as Jade's mother, Denise Matthews, 31, made an emotional appeal at a news conference for her daughter's killer to be caught.

Detectives revealed at the conference that Jade could have been at an underpass a short distance from the railway sidings with the boy at 5.25pm.

A girl, with a slight head injury, answering Jade's description was on the seat of a black mountain bike being pushed by the brown-haired boy of medium build, said Det. Supt. Ge-

off MacDonald, the officer leading the murder inquiry. The girl had not been crying and was not in distress, according to the report. He said the girl fitted Jade's physical description accurately, although her clothes were not exactly the same.

"We don't know who she is. It may be Jade, it may be another girl," he said. "We are very

anxious to trace her or anyone who saw her."

Jade's body was found on railway sidings at 1.20am on Monday. A wooden post had been used to kill her. She was last seen on Sunday afternoon and was murdered some time after leaving three friends with whom she had been playing near her home in Eaton Avenue, Bootle.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The proportion of newly-qualified teachers recruited by schools has fallen for the first time in a decade, despite growing pupil numbers, according to a new report. The Universities Council for the Education of Teachers suggests that education budget cuts are the most likely reason for the fall in the percentage of students from university teacher-training courses obtaining jobs. The Department for Education and Employment has said a 50 per cent increase in new entrants is needed by the turn of the century to avoid shortages. Since 1986 around three-quarters of students completing university teacher-training courses have found jobs each year. This year the figure is down to 69 per cent. *Judith Judd*

A further turn of the screw against international football hooliganism has been negotiated by the Home Office, it was disclosed last night. Two parliamentary Orders laid before the Commons enact bilateral agreements made with the Republic of Ireland and Norway, under which anyone living in England or Wales who is convicted of a football-related criminal offence in either country after 1 August can be made the subject of a magistrates' court ban on travelling abroad to any specified football match.

The Home Office said that the British law, which already applies to Scotland, Sweden and Italy, could not apply to foreign supporters coming to Britain. *Anthony Byrne*

Leaders of London Underground drivers yesterday cancelled a 24-hour stoppage scheduled for next Tuesday ahead of talks today, but threatened nine other strikes to keep up the pressure on management. The decision by Aslef, the train drivers' union, to call off the day-long strike next week will enable it to co-ordinate walkouts with the RMT transport union, which is expected to announce a vote for action today. Under the law, unions must give management seven days' notice of disruption.

Tony West, assistant general secretary of Aslef yesterday announced that walkouts on 18, 25 and 29 July; 7, 13, 23 and 27 August and 5 and 9 September. The action on 25 July would hit cricket fans travelling to the first day of England's first test against Pakistan. *Burke Clement*

Young women in Africa are twice as likely to have HIV, the virus that causes Aids, as their male peers, according to new research by the United Nations. Yesterday the UN called for Aids campaigners to target women, who they described as "biologically, socially, and economically vulnerable" to the disease. At present about 42 per cent of the 21 million adults living with HIV/Aids are women and the proportion continues to go up.

In industrialised countries, practically all infections used to occur in men. In Britain, women made up 3.7 per cent of Aids cases up to the end of 1985. By 1995, they had quadrupled, to account for 14 per cent. The pattern is similar in other countries. But it is in the developing world where women are particularly at risk. In Africa south of the Sahara there are already six women with HIV for every five men. More than four-fifths of all infected women get the virus through heterosexual transmission. *Glenda Cooper*

Surveillance cameras are to be used for the first time to film drivers making illegal manoeuvres at busy yellow box junctions, it was announced yesterday. Three junctions in London are to be monitored in the pilot project in an attempt to cut down on accidents and delays.

Motorists caught breaking the law will face an instant £20 fine. The scheme is aimed at preventing drivers from entering box junctions when the exit is blocked. This often causes a traffic jam as vehicles become trapped in the centre. Police also want to deter people from making illegal right and left-hand turns and U-turns, all of which can cause accidents. The system will operate along junctions on the A501 in west London in the Easton and Baker Street areas. *Jason Bennett*

A Briton has been charged with smuggling heroin worth \$10m (£6.5m) after United States customs inspectors found 28lbs of the drug concealed in wood carvings. Steven Bristow, 33, from Essex, had been charged with smuggling the drug, which was seized at John F Kennedy Airport, New York.

Bristow was detained after inspectors took a closer look at two wooden wall carvings that he brought into the US on a Virgin Atlantic flight from London. The seizure was "one of the top five, maybe the top three" drugs finds in New York in recent years, said Thomas Smith, deputy special agent in charge of the customs service's New York office. Mr Smith said the amount seized could lead to sentences of 15 to 20 years in prison and fines of up to \$4m (£2.6m).

Two large passenger aircraft collided on the ground at Heathrow airport because of a flight crew "blind spot" problem, according to an accident report. The crew of a Gulf Air Airbus A340 with 241 passengers on board could not see the left-hand wing-tip of their aircraft from where they were sitting. When the plane moved forward to get into position for take-off, the wing-tip struck the rudder of a British Airways Boeing 757, which was also waiting to take off. The aircraft were damaged, but all passengers were unhurt.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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Hadrian's Wall repels the new marauders

When the Romans built their great edifice they didn't account for hordes of tourists

STEPHEN GOODWIN

A mere 1,850 years after the Emperor Hadrian built his wall across northern Britain to keep out the marauding Barbarians, the whole 73-mile length is to benefit from a single strategy to combat the more prosaic menace of the tourist boot and insensitive farmers.

Some 1.5 million people a year visit the wall, homing in on the central section where they like to scramble on the 3-metre thick stone barrier and gaze across the rugged fells, a landscape in mind. But the result, in places, has been damage to the fragile archaeology of an acclaimed World Heritage Site (WHS) and a nuisance to farmers and wildlife. Farmers too have exacted a toll on the wall.

In past centuries, its stones were plundered for barns and fields. Today the complaint is of farm buildings and land use which jar with the setting for the finest preserved frontier of the Roman world.

In deal with the competing pressures of visitors and land use, while helping the local economy grow, English Nature yesterday produced the first long-term management strategy for the wall since Hadrian's. Quite why Hadrian built the wall, beyond wanting to mark

out his northern frontier, remains uncertain. According to a Roman biographer its purpose was "to separate the Romans from the Barbarians". That is no offence to the Picts and Scots who did not appear over the hill until later.

Started in AD122, the fortifications extend from Wallsend on the River Tyne, through Newcastle and its suburbs, west over the craggy uplands of the northern Pennines and on past Carlisle to Bowness-on-Solway. The various ditches, exposed wall, milecastles, forts and civilian settlements all form part of the WHS.

The strategy published yesterday by English Heritage is the result of a 12-month exercise in consultation and compromise. Farmers and landowners, who were appalled at the first draft fearing bureaucratic interference in their activities alongside the wall, gave the revised plan a cautious welcome. But conservationists who had hoped to restore more of the wild feel to the wall's surroundings were correspondingly disappointed.

Launching the management plan at Cawfields, site of one of the encampments along the wall, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said the role of the private landowner was crucial. Only about 10 per cent of the remains are



Stonewalled: Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, walks on Hadrian's Wall which attracts 1.5 million visitors a year

Photograph: Tom Pilstro

owned and managed purely for the purposes of preservation. "It is neither desirable nor possible to attempt to fossilise or homogenise the character of the land which has to earn its keep," Sir Jocelyn told his audience, which included several

landowners and their representatives.

The production of an overall plan should enable English Heritage and other bodies to win European Union funding to improve tourist services, protect sections of the wall vul-

nerable to erosion under and enhance the landscape.

The highest change over the consultation period has been the shrinking of the buffer zone or "setting" alongside the wall. This has come down from some 5km on either side

in open country to between 500 metres and 1km.

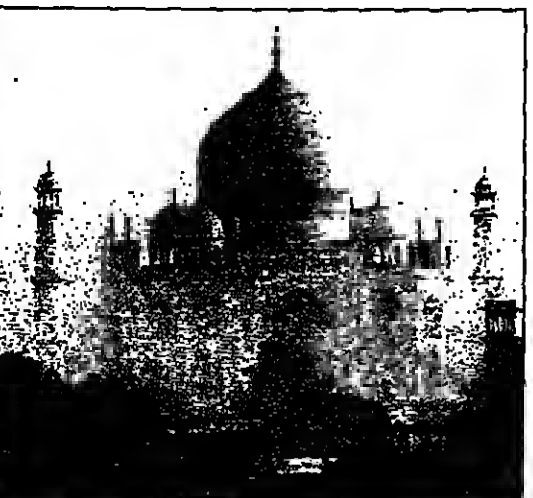
The farmers' anxieties were forcefully put at public meetings. But conservationists regret the back-peddalling, Ian Brodie, secretary of the Friends of the Lake District, which monitors

the Cumbria section of the wall, described the plan as "timid". More could have been done to protect the setting, he said.

A Hadrian's Wall Co-ordination Unit has been set up under director Christopher Young. He will be working

alongside a representative of the wall-tourism partnership and a Countryside Commission officer responsible for the Hadrian's Wall National Trail - a coast-to-coast walk in the footsteps of the legions.

Taj Mahal: Its marble is under threat of erosion from acid rain caused by nearby industry, burning high sulphur coal, major roads and thousands of tiny petrol-burning electricity generators which start up during the area's routine power cuts. UNESCO, the Asian Development Bank and the Indian government have collaborated on devising a \$100m (£65m) scheme to tackle the pollution, but the government has stalled its implementation.



Theft, terror and tourism ravage world history

NICHOLAS SCHOON
Environment Correspondent

They have survived centuries of neglect, warfare, vandalism and robbery to become the world's greatest tourist attractions. But today, UNESCO's World Heritage Sites - the *crème de la crème* of monuments and architecture - still face these same threats, along with some new ones, such as heavy-duty tourism and air pollution.

No one is too surprised that important sites - such as the Great Pyramids of Giza - are now under threat.

But even in wealthy countries, such as Britain, some of our most precious ancient structures are at risk. Last month, eight of the great stones in the 4,000-year-old circle at Avebury, Wiltshire, were defaced by graffiti, which inspired copycat attacks in Somerset and Wiltshire.

The attacks are one new worry for curators, whose chief concern until now has been coping with the pressure of growing numbers of visitors and the surrounding 20th century blight.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, yesterday said two of Britain's 14 World Heritage Sites, the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament were "absolutely wrecked by traffic".

Another cause for shame is the nearby buildings and structures which now seem extremely ugly and inappropriate.

Britain's worst example is the 19th-century visitor centre next to Stonehenge, a brutal concrete construction which funnels visitors into an underpass leading them beneath the A344 road to the stones.

Yet at least the monuments themselves are intact, and more popular than ever. England's ten World Heritage Sites attract over 13 million visitors a year, half of them from overseas, with huge gains to the national and local economies.

The problems facing Britain's sites pale in comparison with those in Third World nations.

The huge temple complex of Angkor Wat in Cambodia suffered previously from almost 20 years of war. It was peppered

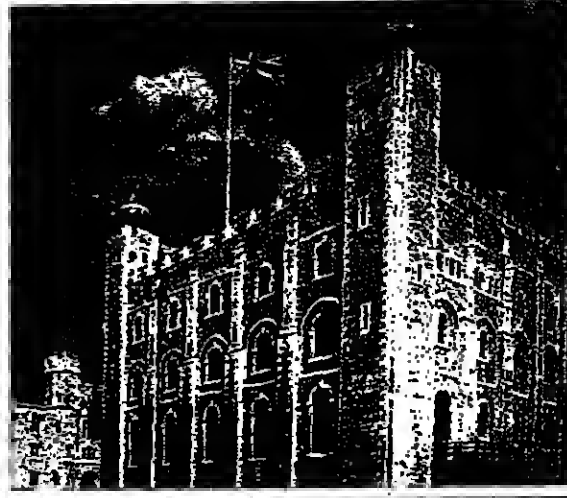
with bullets and shell fragments and surrounded by mine fields. Then the jungle invaded, with tree roots prising apart its stones. Carved masonry was stolen.

Even so, says Ann Le Maistre of UNESCO in Paris, there are grounds for hope since the 200sq km, 1,200-year-old monument, was inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites in 1992.

Visitors to the monument are increasing, giving the Cambodian government an incentive to conserve it. Legislation to preserve monuments has been enacted and a national organisation set up to look after it.

In the next century it will be commonplace for tourists arriving at a great site to be offered two very different experiences. The first is a quick round of an interpretative centre, where the history and function of the place would be explained, aided by virtual reality techniques.

The second experience will be to actually enter the site itself. The visitor doing this will be expected to commit much more time - half or all of a day - possibly pay more and pre-book.



Tower of London: Menaced by a busy five-lane road running just outside it, a disappointingly empty moat and ugly buildings and structures next door. Improvement plans, including filling the moat, are underway but English Heritage's hopes for the road to go into a tunnel - which would cost millions of pounds - seem very unlikely to be realised.



Stonehenge: Britain's most famous monument, spoiled by heavy traffic on two roads next to it and an ugly, inadequate visitor centre. English Heritage has ambitious expensive plans which involve gradually closing off the road, building a new visitors' centre more than one mile away and allowing the more dedicated tourists to walk among the stones again - something they have not been able to do for many years.

Churches resume move to unity

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Methodist Church and the Church of England yesterday announced plans to resume their progress towards union, twice derailed in the last 30 years by deep disagreements within and between the churches about the nature and function of priesthood.

The new proposals have emerged from "talks about talks" which included representatives of the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church of England, which has twice successfully scuppered attempts at unity.

This factor, observers say, explains why the new plans are much less ambitious in scope and speed than previous attempts. The Church of England's General Synod will not consider the report of the informal talks until November next year, and the Methodist conference will not debate them until the following summer. This is delay to give all parties concerned, and the other Christian churches in this country time to make their views known.

The central difficulty holding up previous attempts at union has been the belief of some Anglicans that Methodist ministers are not priests in the same sense as Anglicans are, having failed to preserve the apostolic succession.

In 1972, the most ambitious attempt to reunite the two churches foundered when the Church of England's General

Synod rejected a formula for mutual reordination in which both churches would supply whatever graces might be lacking in the other: the evangelicals objected to it because it suggested that Methodist ministers might lack some grace available to Anglo-Catholics, while the Catholics objected because it did not state this lack clearly enough. Since then both churches have declined in membership, influence and confidence.

The new proposals suggest that candidates coming forward for ordination in either church should in future be ordained into both, though this would not be obligatory. Many candidates from both churches already train together.

Ordination into the other church would also be offered to serving ministers who wanted it. However, the Methodists, who ordain women both as priests and as their equivalent of bishops, have agreed not to interfere in the Church of England's special arrangements for bishops and priests who cannot accept women priests.

Formal talks about unity will not start until the autumn of 1998 at the earliest. Considerable difficulties, however, will remain. For example, Methodists are governed by their annual conference. The Church of England is governed partly by bishops and partly by the General Synod. Women may rise to the highest ranks of Methodism, and have done so; women cannot be ordained as bishops in the Church of England.

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news

Man arrested over school machete attack

Police find suspect in rubbish chute at block of flats

REBECCA FOWLER

Police last night arrested a man in connection with the machete attack on an infants school in Wolverhampton.

Around 30 officers in riot gear went to Villiers House, a tower block near St Luke's infants school where three children and four adults were injured in the attack on Monday.

About 20 minutes after going into the flats, police led out a man, his head covered with a blue blanket. Earlier in the day police spent several hours searching the flats which were the known home of Horrett Irving Campbell, a man they said was wanted for questioning. A large crowd gathered to watch the police operation, climbing onto fences and every other possible vantage point to see what was going on. They shouted abuse as a man was brought out and put in a police van, which was driven away with siren blaring, followed by a back-up police car.

Darrell Bird, 25, who lives in Villiers House, watched the man being led away. He said police found a man hiding in the rubbish chute on the ninth floor. "It is a great relief that they have found someone," he said.

"They have searched that building more than once. If you're going to search a building you

should do it properly - rubbish chutes and all."

Police had earlier twice searched the block - for several hours last night and again for five hours today. Detectives had issued an alert over Mr Campbell, 32, after a man was seen to go into Villiers House after the horrific attack on adults and children.

The playground at St Luke's infants school was empty and the gates were locked yesterday in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, as tension mounted over the search.

Three children were yesterday still in hospital with serious injuries. Rhena Chopra and Francesca Quintyne, both four, had deep cuts to their faces and one also had surgery for a broken jaw and severed ear. Ahmed Pervez, three, was transferred to Birmingham children's hospital with serious head and thigh wounds. The four adults who also received lacerations in the attack were detained in hospital in a stable condition, but risk severe scarring.

Parents kept their children indoors yesterday. Lynda Westwood, whose granddaughter and niece attend the school, said: "We're shocked, and we're angry... The sight of those children yesterday will haunt me for a long time."

The attacker climbed over a school wall on Monday afternoon and attacked the children

and adults who had been invited to St Luke's for a teddy bears' picnic to prepare the three- and four-year-olds for their first school term in September.

Lisa Poits, 21, a nursery nurse, was injured when she leapt to defend the children. From hospital yesterday she described her horror as she saw the intruder. "There was a lot of screaming - and a man came lunging towards me, but he was laughing."

She added: "I grabbed a child under each arm and ran back towards the nursery, but he pulled me back and hit me on the back of the head."

Roy Lockwood, director of education, said that security measures at the school were "comparable with those in the vast majority of schools nationally. To make changes would be a question of moving security in all schools up a whole different level."

St Luke's staff and governors were undecided on whether the school would reopen before the end of term.

Denise Bennett, the school's headteacher, yesterday paid a tearful tribute yesterday to those at the teddy bears' picnic.

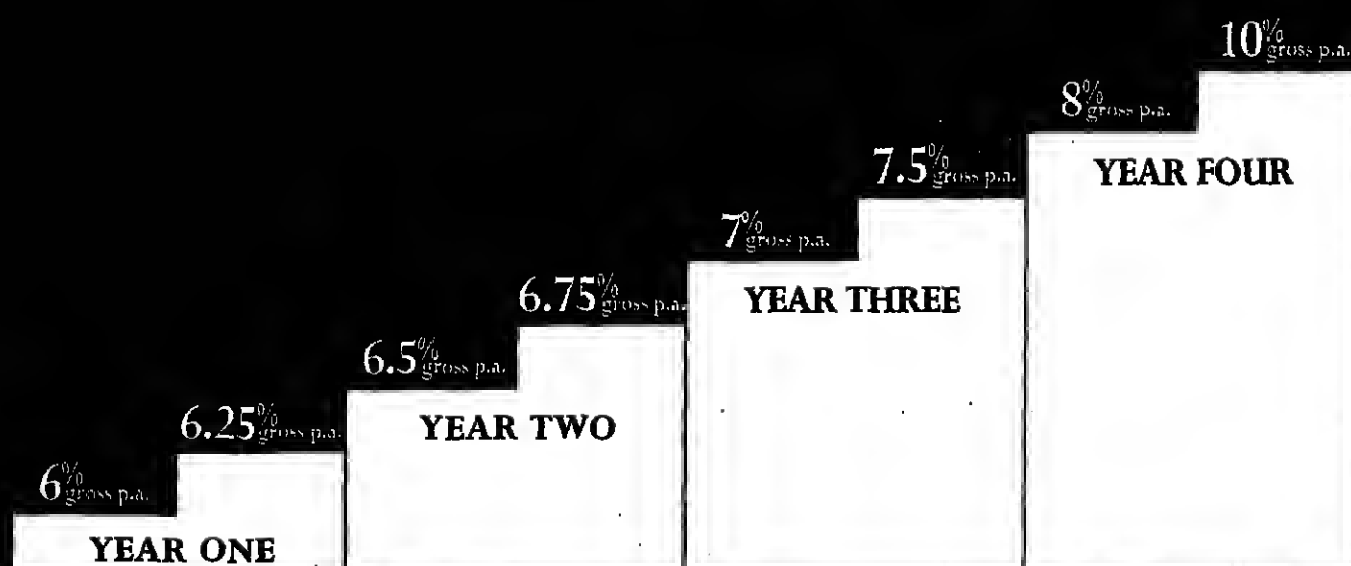
"The speed and control with which my staff acted, together with parents, certainly saved many lives. It was an horrendous scene, the likes of which I hope I will never see again."



Picnic victim: Ahmed Pervez, three, in Birmingham Children's Hospital yesterday with serious head and thigh wounds

Photograph: David Jones

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Inquiry told Hamilton 'slipped through net'

JAMES CUSICK

Midway through the Dunblane inquiry, Lord Cullen was told starkly by a senior police officer that "someone got through the system". After noting that Thomas Hamilton had been investigated by police six times over 15 years with "no action" taken, Lord Cullen may conclude that the system itself needs overhaul.

Since 29 May, the inquiry has spent a week for each minute that Hamilton spent inside Dunblane Primary School, when he slaughtered 16 schoolchildren and their teacher. The Cullen report - expected to be delivered in September - will make recommendations on the control of firearms, schools' security and the vetting of adults who work with schoolchildren.

This week's attack on a Wolverhampton infants school will have given Lord Cullen's report added significance.

The terms "no evidence" and "no action" have been re-

peated constantly during the Dunblane inquiry. The first policeman to investigate Thomas Hamilton followed complaints in the late 1970s made by parents whose children had attended a boys' club in Stirling. Detective Sergeant James Kindness thought Hamilton had tried to subvert parental authority by showering gifts on favoured boys. But he found no evidence. No action was taken.

Later Mr Kindness told the inquiry he could not recall his own report to the Criminal Intelligence Office in November 1981, which noted that Hamilton was a suspected homosexual and prone to influence boys against their parents. The report was never acted upon.

In 1988, Hamilton was the subject of four separate police investigations. Strathclyde Police acted on a complaint over the way he ran summer camps on an island on Loch Lomond.

Police thought they had enough evidence to charge Hamilton with assault, after he spanked

a child with a table tennis bat. But no action was taken.

Hamilton was investigated again some months later, after he photographed two children holding revolvers and a semi-automatic machine gun. But the parents made no complaint and no action was taken.

Two years later Hamilton once more came to police attention over his latest camps. Detective Sergeant Paul Hughes, now a chief inspector, submitted a report to the Procurator Fiscal's office detailing 10 charges he believed could be brought. He also recommended that Hamilton should, as a minimum precaution, be prevented from having his firearms licence renewed. However, the police superintendent who renewed Hamilton's gun licence in 1989 and 1992 knew of no police investigations.

In his summing up, Colin Campbell, QC, said: "No one in Central Scotland Police ever applied their minds to Hamilton's fitness to own guns."

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Breast cancer team reduce risk of surgery

GLENDIA COOPER

A pioneering treatment for breast cancer, which kills 13,000 women in Britain each year, has been discovered by doctors.

Women with large tumours usually face surgery to remove either the lump or the entire breast. But doctors at the Royal Marsden NHS Trust believe they may have found a safer, more effective treatment.

The new method relies upon giving the woman chemotherapy prior to an operation. In the past there was no means of measuring the success of drugs used, but Dr Paul Ellis, a research fellow, believes his team may have pinpointed the way the drugs work.

"We have shown for the first time that chemotherapy causes cancer cells to self-destruct," Dr Ellis said at the launch of the Institute of Cancer Research's annual report yesterday. "The drugs trigger a complex chain of events known as apoptosis in which cells destroy themselves. It is early days yet, but we have already seen that treatment with drugs before surgery

can shrink the tumour or even cause it to disappear," he said. "The problem is that, until now, we've had no way of knowing if the drugs that one patient has responded to will benefit someone else, until her course of treatment is complete."

"Inevitably, this means some women are suffering several months of unpleasant treatment with little or no benefit." In clinical trials at the Royal Marsden, which have involved around 30 women so far, doctors perform a biopsy using a fine needle to remove cells from the tumour before chemotherapy treatment is started, and then again afterwards.

By measuring the rate at which cells self-destruct, doctors will be able to determine the most appropriate drugs to use. In other words, it should be possible to provide tailor-made treatment for patients.

In successful cases, the need for major surgery – including the removal of one or both breasts – has been lessened or avoided altogether.

"No two breast cancers are the same," said Dr Ellis, whose

work recently won him the prestigious 1996 ASCO Fellowship Award. "Every patient has a biological make-up that is slightly different. We are applying technology so that we can fingerprint each patient's tumour early on, so the woman does not have to undergo unnecessary treatment. What we don't know is whether it gives women better survival rates."

But Ian Fentiman, deputy director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's clinical oncology unit at Guy's Hospital, advised caution.

"It would be nice to think this is the end of mastectomies, but it isn't," he said. "We have to say the results are early, and we know that they are necessarily going to lead to improvements."

"When we did a similar study at the ICRF, we found that when we explained to patients exactly what was involved in chemotherapy, then surgery, then radiotherapy, only 50 per cent were prepared to go through with it. The rest of [the] patients opted just to have a mastectomy, rather than go through all that."

Chanel collection: Veteran designer omits trademark logo to foil the fashion fakers



Barely recognisable: The Chanel collection breaks with the past Photograph: Sheridan Morley



Simple chic: Lagerfeld back to basics Photograph: Reuter

Lagerfeld strips away the detail

TAMSI BLANCHARD
Fashion Editor

There was not a trademark interlinked pair of Cs in sight at Chanel's haute couture show for Autumn/Winter '96 yesterday, as the fashion house aimed for simplicity – and beating the counterfeiters.

Last season, Karl Lagerfeld had pared down Chanel's show to the intimate setting of the Imperial Suite at the Ritz Hotel. This season, he pared down the clothes too, so that at times, they were barely recognisable as Chanel. And he managed to defeat the copyists by being so clean of logos there was nothing to rip off.

For day-wear, the closely fitting calf-length coats in soft violet, black, British racing green and quiet navy bouclé, were worn over shiny Lycra footless tights, a droll throwback to the 1980s. Some were fastened with a zip, without a gilt button in sight. And when there were buttons, the natural vehicle for the house's signature, interlinked Cs, were replaced by a plain circle with a tiny diamante stone in the centre, or by a sprig of dia-

monte with a pearl. The only sign of that most famous of fashion logos was on subtle little wallets, where it was quietly stamped on the leather.

The couture house fights a constant battle against copyists: the logo turns up everywhere from T-shirts in Bangkok markets to handbags in New York's Chinatown.

Last month, Chanel placed a full page advert in the trade paper, *Woman's Wear Daily*, sternly warning fashion editors to be careful how they use the Chanel name. And at the ready-to-wear show last March, photographers were required to sign a statement declaring that they would not release any of their pictures onto the Internet. Few signed then, but this season, they had no choice if they were to be allowed access to the catwalk show.

Yves Saint Laurent announced last week that it was taking the opposite attack and embracing the new information technology with open arms: their show today will be transmitted live on the Internet, a clever way of at least having some control over the images that are released.

Anger of asthma sufferers

COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

Ministers faced criticism from asthma sufferers and family doctors last night, after refusing to make the reduction of asthma a key target in the Health of the Nation campaign.

The decision disappointed doctors and more than 2 million sufferers who have been pressing the Government to include asthma in the list of diseases to be tackled by special measures, despite its exclusion from the Health of the Nation strategy launched in July 1992, by Virginia Bottomley, then Secretary of State for Health.

Although the incidence of asthma is increasing, for reasons which have yet to be fully un-

derstood, it will not be included among the targets set for reducing the rates of death or serious illness from diseases such as breast and cervical cancer, mental illness, coronary heart disease and strokes.

The targets have been used to measure success or failure in dealing with diseases in the priority list. The strategy has been broadly welcomed by all parties, and there was widespread support for asthma to be included. But the Government slipped out a Commons written answer, under cover of other health and environment initiatives, rejecting the calls.

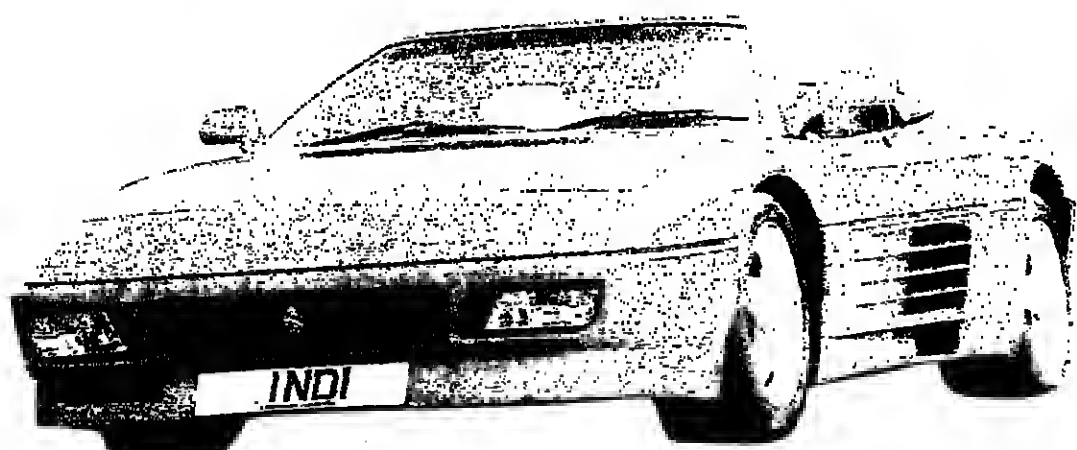
John Horgan, the junior Health Minister, said: "We have considered very carefully the case for asthma to be given key

area status, but have decided against it. We have concluded that improving the management of asthma remains the responsibility of the NHS working partnership with organisations and there is limited scope for additional cross-government working."

The refusal to include asthma in the targets will be seen as a cost-saving measure to avoid paying GPs extra amounts for seeing asthma sufferers.

Mr Horgan said the Department of Health was committed to an extensive research programme into asthma. The National Asthma Campaign would commission NHS-sponsored research on the effectiveness of treatments and services for asthma sufferers.

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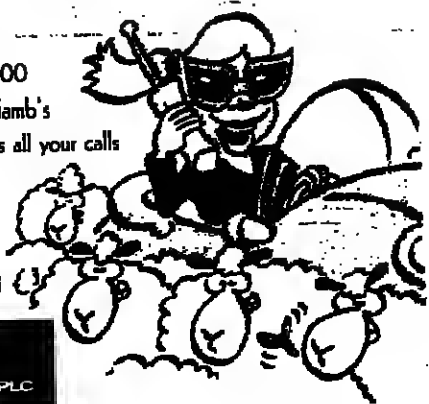
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politics

Portillo goes into battle with a counter-plonker strategy

It is almost exactly a year since Michael Portillo did not stand against John Major for the Conservative Party leadership. Instead, "friends" had 40 phone lines installed in a house near Parliament – just in case – and made Mr Portillo look like a plonker. As a result, John Redwood slipped into pole position as darling of the Right.

Then, last October, Mr P made a preposterous speech to Tory Party conference, attacking non-existent proposals to abolish separate armed forces and merge everything into a



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Euro-army. Later, it transpired that this speech had been written by the same "friends" who were responsible for the BT debacle. Mr Portillo looked like a

plonker again. And John Redwood now found himself a head and five coils in front.

Since then nothing has been heard of the Defence Secretary. Quite possibly wondering whether his "friends" may not actually be relatives of Mr Redwood, Mr Portillo has determined to do nothing remotely plonkerish, which – in his case – means doing nothing at all.

He knows that he has less than a year to cultivate leadership gravitas, at which point his pure sex appeal for the Atilas of the backbenches will see

him pulverise the cold-blooded Redwood. So yesterday, I went to see his counter-plonker act at work during Defence questions. Here is my report.

The turn-out for Portillo was good. A substantial proportion of lady backbenchers appeared, decked out in their most fetching outfits, including the divine septuagenarian Dame Peggy Fenner (Medway) in a flowing royal blue number. She did not take her eyes off him for three-quarters of an hour.

But the new, sober Portillo does not play to the gallery.

Where other ministers treat virtually any question from Opposition members with a ballistic contempt (e.g. Nicholas Soames's response to some tedious bit of Labour point-scoring: "What utter claptrap, the most ignorant, ridiculous etc. etc."), Michael's most offensive response was to comment mildly that he did not think that a particular proposition was "a very good idea".

When not answering questions – features which remind one of a luscious, almost perfect piece of fruit at a greengrocer's, which unfortunately is just making V-signs, or lounging about with his legs wide open, or doing any of the things that most ministers enjoy.

Only two things remained of the old, exciting Plonker Portillo. The first is the extraordinary attention he is still paying to his appearance. His double-breasted dark grey suit was superb – to die for, in fact. And he retains those band-

some, if slightly squashed, features – features which remind one of a luscious, almost perfect piece of fruit at a greengrocer's, which unfortunately is just making V-signs, or lounging about with his legs wide open, or doing any of the things that most ministers enjoy.

beginning to become overripe. Above the fruit is the elaborate concoction of the hair. It must take him hours every morning to reconstruct.

Parted in the centre, the left hand is swept upwards, and then allowed to flop back coquettishly. It is his liberal wing. The right, by contrast, maintains an uncompromising, arching curve, a determined Baroque sweep, defying gravity. There is something in this haircut for all sections of the party.

The second holdover was demonstrated in his answer to

one of those Tory questions about Tony Blair, CND and the nuclear trigger.

According to the Defence Secretary, the Labour leader had said that he was "in favour of pressing the button".

Opposition members looked shocked, as well they might: surely Tony would wait for a war first? This was a novel twist on "New Labour, New Danger".

But what Mr Portillo had meant, of course, was that Mr Blair was prepared to push the button. Five per cent of him is still a plonker.

Commons confusion as MPs vote on pay

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The House of Commons was heading for a night of confusion and sanctimony tonight as the Government tabled a series of motions allowing MPs to vote any number of ways on the sensitive issue of their own pay.

The main choice, between the "restraint" of a 3 per cent rise and the independently-assessed "fair" rise of 26 per cent, has been complicated by the Senior Salaries Review Body's proposal to cut generous car-mileage allowances.

With both Conservative and Labour front benches urging restraint, Government whips last night predicted a close vote, with some predicting that MPs would vote to accept the review body's pay rise and keep mileage allowances as they are – the most generous option available.

This would add £9,000 to MPs' present £34,000 salary, with a separate vote on bigger increases for ministers, taking the Prime Minister's salary up £60,000 to £143,000.

But many MPs earn a significant amount of tax-free income from ample 74p-a-mile mileage allowances, which the review body's recommendation is asking them to give up for a similar amount of taxable salary.

Michael Stern, a Tory MP and accountant who handles the

Who's who in salaries review body

Sir Michael Perry: Retiring as chairman of Unilever in September. Salary £818,950 plus annual pension contributions of more than an MP's salary, £35,880.
Michael Beloff QC: Head of barrister's chambers. Estimated annual earnings £500,000. Tony Blair's wife Cherie Booth is another high-earning member of the same chambers.
Rosemary Day: Self-employed management consultant. Earnings unknown. Also a member of the Legal Aid Advisory Board.
Gordon Hourston: Retired as managing director of Boots last year. Salary at Boots £464,000. Also chairman of the Armed Services Pay Review Body.
Sir Sydney Lipworth QC: Non-executive chairman of Zeneca and non-executive deputy chairman of NatWest. Salaries total £202,000 last year for two part-time jobs, at Zeneca for only seven months of the year, according to Labour Research Department.
Patricia Mann: Director of external affairs at J Walter Thompson. Non-executive director of British Gas. Earnings at JWP not known (subsidiary of WPP, a private company).
Yve Newbold: Chief executive of Pro-Ned, headhunters. Salary was in excess of £200,000 as company secretary of Hanson until last year. Also non-executive director of BT. Hosts monthly breakfast at the Ritz for top businesswomen.
Mark Sheldon: Consultant to City law firm Linklaters and Paines (former senior partner). Annual earnings as a senior partner estimated at £700,000. Former President of the Law Society.
Sir Anthony Wilson: Retired permanent secretary of the Government Accounting Service. Salary range of PSs now £90,000 to £154,500.

tax affairs of several of his colleagues, said that some of them would be worse off on balance if the full review body package were implemented.

Chris Mullin, the Labour MP who has campaigned against a inflation-plus increase for MPs, said he knew that some of his colleagues drove to and from their constituencies in order to earn money to subsidise

their constituency and Commons offices. But others simply regarded it as a perk which made up for what they regarded as inadequate basic salaries.

Further complexities have been added to tonight's open-ended succession of votes by a series of amendments tabled overnight on issues ranging from pensions to outside earnings. The 120 government min-

isters, whips and aides are under instruction to vote for the 3 per cent increase, but many are expected to absent themselves.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, has also favoured 3 per cent. But the 80 frontbench Labour MPs are likely to split over Tony Blair's lead in urging a vote for restraint. Up to nine members of the shadow Cabinet resisted attempts by Mr Blair to persuade them to vote for 3 per cent.

The inquiry by the Senior Salaries Review Body was set up by the Prime Minister in February after 298 MPs of all parties signed a motion calling for an independent review. The body's report, published last week, said a £9,000 increase for MPs was justified on grounds of "international comparability, heavy parliamentary workloads, increased lobbying and constituency expectations, and the need to attract able candidates". The exact figure was set simply by uprating the 1983 recommendation of £19,000 a year, which was reduced as a voluntary act of pay restraint.

As for ministers, whose higher recommended increases would not come into effect until after the election, the review body says: "We believe that additional recognition of the job weight of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers is long overdue."



Deadly crop: Christian Aid's Garden of Life and Death at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show focuses on the ruin of farm land worldwide by minefields. The Government is being pressed to ban landmine exports. Photograph: Jane Baker

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DAILY POEM

Canteen Song
Preston Station Buffet 4am July 1916.

By Phoebe Hesketh

Green flag and whistle
Shrill through clouding steam
As the panting train
Loaded with cheering tommyes,
Jerks into life.

Living and dead
Living and dead
The living are gone
To add to the dead.

In the canteen
Plump ladies in blue overalls
Turn away rolling up their sleeves
To empty the urns, clattering cups and spoons
Louder than thoughts.

Yet some are weeping,
Some are yawning,
None are greeting this midsummer morning
With more than flickering hope.

Living and dead
Living and dead
The living are gone
To add to the dead.

A month ahead
And the signal falls
To greet the train blowing sparks and steam
As it screams to a stop

Two cheers for the living
Though all are crippled
And many already half dead.

Here comes the Red Cross,
The stretcher-bearers
And valiant V.A.D.s
Give a thought to the widows
And children, losers
And bearers as much as these.

So the living return
In halting hundreds
Leaving the thousands dead.

The Battle of the Somme raged through the summer of 1916, writes Phoebe Hesketh. I was seven years old when the trains started leaving Preston station, packed with singing tommyes. Later they returned with the wounded – many on stretchers, and many limping. The injured wore pale blue flannel suits; most were bandaged, often with blood oozing through the white. I remember also my mother working at the Preston station buffet – sometimes all night – looking infinitely weary.

Phoebe Hesketh's *The Leave Train: Selected and New Poems* is published Eulitharmon (1995).

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news

Drink poses greater threat to women

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Sometimes it's hard to be a woman. New research into gender differences between alcoholics suggests that drink for drink we get drunk faster and do more harm to our bodies than men while doing so.

And whether we imbibe or not, scientists have found that year on year, we lose more of the useful bits of our brains sooner than men. A mixture of hormones, chromosomes, and enzymes are to blame.

Professor Karl Mann, from the Addiction Research Unit at Tuebingen University in southern Germany, told an international meeting of psychiatrists yesterday that liver cirrhosis, brain damage, and cognitive impairment such as memory loss and reduced powers of reasoning, start earlier in women alcoholics.

"When you compare the stage at which they enter treatment, women with almost six years of [alcohol] dependency have the same degree of cognitive impairment as men with ten years of dependency," Professor Mann said.

Women studied by Professor Mann's team were also more likely to suffer from anxiety, depression and other addictive disorders than men. Six months after a six-week course of in-patient treatment, more of the women had relapsed into alcoholism than men.

Speaking on the second day of the meeting of the Association of European Psychiatrists, Professor Mann said there was increasing evidence that women had fewer of the enzymes in the liver and gut wall that break

wine, or a standard measure of spirits.

In a second study presented at the meeting, Dr Declan Murphy, a consultant psychiatrist at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, said there were "significant" differences between the sexes in brain ageing. These occurred in parts of the brain associated with memory and the ability to locate oneself in time and place. They are also areas which show abnormalities in brain diseases such as late-onset schizophrenia and Alzheimer's Disease.

Dr Murphy said there were sex differences in the symptoms associated with these diseases which give clues to differences in ageing between the sexes.

Women appear to lose more brain tissue as they age in areas of the brain linked with Alzheimer's Disease. It is known that female sufferers experience memory abnormalities earlier - involving an area of the brain known as the hippocampus - and this is influenced by levels of sex hormones such as oestrogen. Women also experience earlier deterioration in the parietal lobe of the brain which controls their ability to manipulate objects in space.

Men show more abnormalities in the frontal lobe and tend to lose control over their impulsive behaviour and irritability as they grow older.

Men lose cells from the frontal lobes of the brain, which affects their impulse control and levels of irritability.

down alcohol before it enters the blood stream.

"A woman weighing 60kg will get drunk more quickly than a man weighing 60kg because of this," Professor Mann said. He studied 57 women and 62 men who drank on average 18 to 20 units a day - one unit is equivalent to half a pint of ordinary beer or lager, a small glass of

both; and a lower level criminal offence of causing harassment, alarm and distress, with a maximum penalty of six months prison, a £5,000 fine or both.

But Mr Maclean said the proposed new civil measure could also be extended from the classic stalking situation to "third party" injunctions brought by the police or "possibly, in the light of recent events, a headmaster could take out an injunction against someone hanging around the school playground."

The move is geared to situations where the activities of stalkers or other potential offenders have not yet threatened any victims and of which victims are oblivious. "But there may be instances where the police fear that such a course of conduct may, unless brought to an end, lead on to actual harm to the victim," the document says.

The Government is seeking views by 9 September on this and the proposed offences, and whether the suggested defences are wide enough to ensure that people are not penalised for otherwise lawful activity.

The new laws would go beyond existing civil and criminal remedies by covering the activities of work colleagues and friends and neighbours as well as strangers, and by catching seemingly innocuous behaviour such as persistently sending unwanted flowers or following someone.

In a rare exception to the normal rule in criminal law, convictions for the proposed new offences would not depend on proving that the stalker intended to cause distress, because of the difficulty in proving intent where harassment takes the form of unsolicited "gifts".

Nothing sacred: Smashed and damaged headstones at Aval Wood military cemetery, where 407 British, three Australian, and one German are buried. They all perished during the German offensive of 1918

Photograph: Brian Harris

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Vandalism mystery: Headstones damaged in three cemeteries in northern France



Nothing sacred: Smashed and damaged headstones at Aval Wood military cemetery, where 407 British, three Australian, and one German are buried. They all perished during the German offensive of 1918

French shamed by attack on war graves

STEVE BOGGAN

There was shame and embarrassment among the people of northern France yesterday when the Commonwealth War Graves Commission revealed that three British war cemeteries had been desecrated by vandals in the space of 48 hours.

War graves officials in France received a steady stream of calls from apologetic French people after police reported that 112 headstones at Aval Wood military cemetery, near Lille, had been knocked over on Sunday night. Then came the news that 51 out of 54 headstones had been broken at Bunyans cemetery, near Arras, and a further three had been damaged at the nearby Orange Hill cemetery the following evening.

Officially, police and war graves commission staff said there was no connection between the attacks - such incidents happen periodically - but concern has reached the highest levels of the French government. Pierre Pasquini, the minister whose department is responsible for upkeep of the cemeteries, is due to visit Aval Wood today. During the attack there, the cemetery's book of remembrance was burnt.

"The three cemeteries are about an hour's drive apart," said Jeremy Gee, director of information for the War Graves Commission. "There is no evidence to suggest that the attacks are in any way linked, but obviously we hope it isn't a group of people driving from cemetery to cemetery doing damage."

"There is a possibility that the second and third attacks were copycat incidents, but that isn't much consolation. There may be more when the attacks are reported in the media."

Mr Gee said British and French staff who maintain the graves had been deeply upset by the incident. They had to deal with a steady stream of inquiries from anxious relatives concerned that the headstone of a family member might have been destroyed. Nearly all the men buried at the three sites died during the First World War.

"We don't have lists yet, but when we do we will call the people involved," he said. "Most of the headstones are unbroken and can be easily replaced. The rest will be repaired and put back in place. We have also had a lot of calls from sympathetic French people who feel ashamed at what has happened. We have been thanking them for calling, but it isn't their fault. We have plenty of vandals of our own here in England."

Tough new measures pledged over stalkers

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Legal Affairs Editor

Headteachers or the police could be given the right to take out injunctions against suspicious people found loitering near schools under proposals to toughen penalties on stalkers announced by the Government yesterday.

The suggestion came as David Maclean, the Home Office minister, pledged to legislate for three new legal measures to curb stalking in the next session of Parliament.

A consultation paper proposes a new civil injunction, breach of which would be a criminal offence punishable by up to five years in jail; a higher level criminal offence for activity causing people to fear for their safety, carrying a maximum penalty of five years in prison, an unlimited fine or

both; and a lower level criminal offence of causing harassment, alarm and distress, with a maximum penalty of six months prison, a £5,000 fine or both.

But Mr Maclean said the proposed new civil measure could also be extended from the classic stalking situation to "third party" injunctions brought by the police or "possibly, in the light of recent events, a headmaster could take out an injunction against someone hanging around the school playground."

The move is geared to situations where the activities of stalkers or other potential offenders have not yet threatened any victims and of which victims are oblivious. "But there may be instances where the police fear that such a course of conduct may, unless brought to an end, lead on to actual harm to the victim," the document says.

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Call for orders: Admiral Leighton Smith, peace commander

Photograph: Reuter

Bosnian war crimes: Nato commander is just waiting for an arrest warrant

The man who wants Karadzic

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

The commander of the peace implementation force in Bosnia said yesterday he was waiting for orders from Nato to arrest Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, adding that in his view they should be detained.

International arrest warrants for the pair are expected to be ordered in court at The Hague tomorrow.

The commander, Admiral Leighton Smith, said that until he receives specific orders from Nato's North Atlantic Council, his troops are under orders only to arrest war criminals if they chance upon them.

He also said he hoped there would be more pressure on Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to hand over indicted war criminals, as he had agreed to do when he signed the Dayton Accord.

Admiral Leighton Smith, who has led the 52,000-strong peace implementation force



Still in control: Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic

since it entered Bosnia in December and who leaves Bosnia at the end of the month, said "Mladic is in complete control of his army".

"We do not deal with him," he continued.

"I have received several letters from Mladic. I do not answer those letters. I have received an invitation to lunch with Karadzic, which I did not answer. Karadzic is still in Pale.

He still exercises considerable influence."

He has increased peace patrols in Pale, but said: "That does not mean I've established a permanent presence there."

He said that if Mr Karadzic or Mr Mladic turned up when he was negotiating with the Bosnian Serbs on their own territory, he would have to walk out as his personal protection squad would probably not be strong

enough to overpower their men. He also said President Milosevic of Serbia bore some responsibility for not handing Mladic and Karadzic over when it was obvious he could have exerted pressure on the Bosnian Serbs, adding that he hoped political and economic pressure would be brought to bear.

"I know there's a hell of a lot of heat being applied to get the parties to do what they've signed up to," he said.

"Milosevic signed - he hasn't implemented."

He said the other indicted war criminals - there are currently 72 - deserved as much attention as the two Bosnian Serb leaders.

The Admiral, who will retire when he leaves Bosnia, said he was "absolutely delighted" with what had happened in his six months as commander of the peace force.

"Happily not many, including myself, thought we would be this far along in the peace process without a great

many more problems than we have had," he said.

Admiral Smith remained optimistic that Bosnia would not remain split into two completely separate entities, though many observers disagree.

He said 30,000 vehicles had crossed the "inter-ethnic boundary line" between the Serb and Muslim-Croat segments in the last few months and that he had recently seen 75 cars crossing the line to attend a market on the other side.

"Is it a multi-ethnic state now?" he asked, rhetorically. "No. Can we expect one by December? Probably not."

He said the elections due in December would be "a huge event" but would mark only the beginning of a return to normality in the country.

He said that establishing the authority of elected officials would be difficult in itself, and he therefore doubted whether the climate would be stable enough to withdraw all military forces after 20 December.

Lamm beats Perot to join the race for President

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

Ross Perot's fledgling Reform Party yesterday acquired a first declared contender for its 1996 presidential nomination, in the person of Richard Lamm, former Governor of Colorado and outspoken proponent of a balanced budget, electoral reform and strict curbs on immigration.

Announcing his candidacy at Denver University, Mr Lamm said that America needed a "crusade of renewal" which would engage the "main stream middle, addressing long term realities rather than short term sideshows", aimed at eliminating the country's trade and budget deficits and overhauling its "dysfunctional" political system.

Sounding uncannily like Paul Tsongas, the austere former Massachusetts Senator who challenged for the Democratic nomination in 1992, the 60-year-old Mr Lamm - a one time Democrat - declared that 1996 was a "watershed election" whose issue was "not what America wants, but what it can afford". Neither Republicans nor Democrats wanted to deal with the most pressing issues, such as cuts in the health care and social security programmes, for fear of offending voters.

The main practical effect of Mr Lamm's decision will be to force Mr Perot, who has been uncharacteristically quiet of late, to make up his mind about a second White House bid. The quirky Texan billionaire has thus far confined himself to asserting he wants the strongest possible candidate.

Most commentators believe that ultimately the Texas billionaire will conclude that person is himself. Perot spokesmen yesterday politely welcomed Mr Lamm's move, but stopped well short of any endorsement of his candidacy.

A crucial factor is money. Mr Perot, who is believed to have already spent \$100m on the new party, could finance a campaign out of his own pocket. Not

so Mr Lamm, who has thus far raised a puny \$6,000. His hopes of a decent war chest hinge on the Reform Party being allowed to inherit the \$32m of federal money to which Mr Perot would be personally entitled, on the basis of his 19 per cent of the vote in 1992.

Whether or not Mr Lamm is just a stalking horse for Mr Perot will become clear within the next month, when the Reform Party embarks on a two stage nominating convention - first in California, then on August when the winner of the nomination will be announced in Val-



Richard Lamm: First independent to declare

ley Forge, Pennsylvania. Voting will take place by post and electronically among registered Reform supporters, of whom 1.3 million have either signed ballot petitions or formally joined the party.

Already it is on the ballot in 17 states, and expects to be in the frame in all 50 when the autumn campaign begins on Labor Day, September 2.

But its prospects thereafter are cloudy. Mr Lamm has minimal name recognition but a strong message which could appeal to voters dismayed by a straight choice between President Clinton and Bob Dole.

Mr Perot by contrast is universally known - but, polls suggest, far less popular than four years ago when he ran as an independent. In a three-way contest, he scores no higher than 10 or 12 per cent.

Falling stars fail in French court bids

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

Two former whizzkids of French politics - the showman of the centre-left, Bernard Tapie, and one of the country's youngest ever ministers, the Gaullist Alain Carignon - came to grief in the courts yesterday, losing appeals that offered their last hope of political survival.

The two cases originated in the last corruption clampdown, initiated by the Socialist prime minister, Pierre Bérégovoy, and continued by his Gaullist successor, Edouard Balladur. As both concern politicians who have been largely disowned by their parties, the verdicts carry little political weight. They were, however, severe.

Alain Carignon, who was

briefly environment and communications minister in Mr Balladur's government, had his earlier conviction for corruption upheld and his sentence increased to four years' imprisonment, with one further year suspended. The original term had been three years in prison, with two further years suspended.

Bernard Tapie, who was urban affairs minister in the last two Socialist governments, had his appeal against being made bankrupt summarily dismissed.

Bankruptcy brings automatic disqualification from political office. With the appeal pending, Mr Tapie could keep his seat. Now, although he remains a Euro-MP and says he will appeal to the European Court, his days as a French MP

THE BATTLE OF GLORIOUS VICTORY?

On the 22nd May 1982, five hundred men of the 2nd Parachute Regiment took on a superior Argentine force at Goose Green, and won the first land battle of the Falklands War.

The Para's Commanding Officer, Lt/Col H Jones was killed charging an Argentine trench and was awarded

the Victoria Cross. "The devastating display of courage," said the citation "completely undermined their will to fight further."

In this edition of a new series of Secret History British paratroopers who were with Jones, and the Argentine enemy soldier who shot him, give a new perspective

KONKORDSKI.

An extraordinary story of espionage and a fatal crash in the cold war battle for supersonic supremacy between Concorde and its Russian rival.

THE WHITECHAPEL MURDERS.

Who was Jack the Ripper? New and authentic documents reveal for the first time the identity of Scotland Yard's prime suspect for the gruesome murders.

THE VOYAGE OF THE ST. LOUIS.

How a ship carrying Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazis was spurned by the Western World.

07/11/1996

New clashes in Chechnya mark Yeltsin's return

TONY BARBER
MOSCOW

President Boris Yeltsin yesterday appointed a new head of Russia's domestic intelligence service and discussed the make-up of his next government, but a breakdown of the truce in Chechnya dashed his hopes of a smooth start to his second term in office.

In the worst fighting since the ceasefire was agreed on 10 June, only days before the first round of Russia's presidential election, six Russian soldiers were reported killed in a battle with rebels near Gekhi in south-western Chechnya.

The deputy commander of Russian troops, General Vlad-

imir Shamanov, said the operation to smash a rebel force entrenched in Gekhi had involved the use of aircraft, artillery and interior ministry troops. Tensions were heightened by a rebel threat to execute Russian prisoners if civilians came under attack, and by an army warning to the rebels to release all captives or face being wiped out.

Under the terms of last month's truce, which appeared to be timed to assist Mr Yeltsin's chances of re-election, the Russian army is due to leave Chechnya by September in return for the demilitarisation of the rebels. But rebel commanders said the latest clashes put the truce in danger of collapse.

They accused the Russian forces of launching 52 attacks on Chechen settlements since Monday evening, killing five people and wounding 18. About 30,000 people are believed to have been killed in Chechnya since Russian forces intervened in December 1994 to crush a drive for independence.

Unseen in public for two weeks but apparently still very much in control of Russia's fortunes, Mr Yeltsin issued a decree that named Nikolai Kovalyov, 47, as the chief of the Federal Security Service (FSB), the successor to the internal affairs wing of the former KGB. Mr Kovalyov, a career KGB officer, became deputy head of the service in 1994 and was its acting chief after the dismissal on 20 June of Mikhail Barsukov.

Mr Kovalyov has virtually no public profile but is officially said to have spent two years in Afghanistan, though it is unclear in what capacity. His previous duties also include responsibility for economic counter-intelligence - experience that may appeal to the new national security supremo, Alexander Lebed, who has promised a crackdown on crime and corruption. Mr Lebed conferred separately on Monday with Mr

Yeltsin and the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, but there is no firm evidence he had a hand in Mr Kovalyov's appointment. However, he said publicly on Saturday that the appointments of the "power ministers" - those in charge of defence, interior and security affairs - should be coordinated with him.

Mr Chernomyrdin, who has made clear his view that Mr Lebed should restrain his undisguised ambitions for power, met Mr Yeltsin yesterday to dis-



Nikolai Kovalyov: New chief of Federal Security Service

cuss the formation of the next government. The main interest centres on how reformist a complexion the government will have in the light of Mr Yeltsin's crushing election victory last week over the Communist candidate, Gennady Zyuganov.

Mr Chernomyrdin, a moderate reformist who is certain to retain the premiership, held talks yesterday with Russia's leading liberal opposition politician, Grigory Yavlinsky, who was knocked out in the election's first round. Mr Yavlinsky has signalled his readiness to accept the post of first deputy prime minister in charge of the economy, but officials close to Mr Chernomyrdin said it was unlikely that he or any of his liberal colleagues in parliament would be offered government jobs.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The spectacular pictures of laser-guided bombs falling down air vents in the Gulf war were highly misleading and the weapons were not nearly as effective as claimed, says a classified report by the United States General Accounting Office to be released tomorrow.

The report on air operations in Desert Storm says the post-war claims about the precision-guided weapons were "misleading, inconsistent with the best available data, or unverifiable", and that this was especially evident with the most sophisticated weapons such as the Tomahawk cruise missile and the F-117, a Stealth fighter.

Based on interviews with more than 100 pilots who flew in the war, the report concludes that the high-altitude bombing tactics used by the US meant loss of accuracy, even with supposedly high-precision weapons, and inferred less sophisticated aircraft may have offered better value for money. *Christopher Bellamy - London*

The reputed godfather of Russian organised crime in the United States was found guilty yesterday of attempting to extort \$3.5m (£2.3m) from a Wall Street investment firm. Vyacheslav Ivankov, 56, believed to be the leader of the Russian mafia in the US, was convicted in a district court in Brooklyn. Also convicted of conspiracy to commit extortion and attempted extortion from a firm run by two Russian businessmen were Sergei Ignor, 33, and Valery Novak, 46. All three face up to 40 years in prison and substantial fines. *New York - Reuter*

Drug charges have been filed in Los Angeles against David Gahan, the lead singer of the pop group Dèpêche Mode. The Los Angeles District Attorney's office said that Gahan, who was arrested on 28 May at a Hollywood hotel after apparently suffering an overdose, was scheduled to be arraigned on Monday. He was freed on \$10,000 (£6,500) bail after being released from hospital. Deputy District Attorney David Longo said the 34-year-old singer would be formally charged with one count each of possession of cocaine and being under the influence of cocaine. *Los Angeles - Reuter*

Police have broken up a child-stealing gang in southern China, rescuing 16 boys intended for sale. The boys, aged 1 to 5, were among 21 children abducted since last July in Guizhou province for sale in Fujian, the *Xinmin Evening News* of Shanghai reported. It did not say who the intended buyers were, but children are often kidnapped in China for sale as servants or beggars, or to childless couples who want sons. Sixteen gang members were arrested, the newspaper said. *Peking - AP*

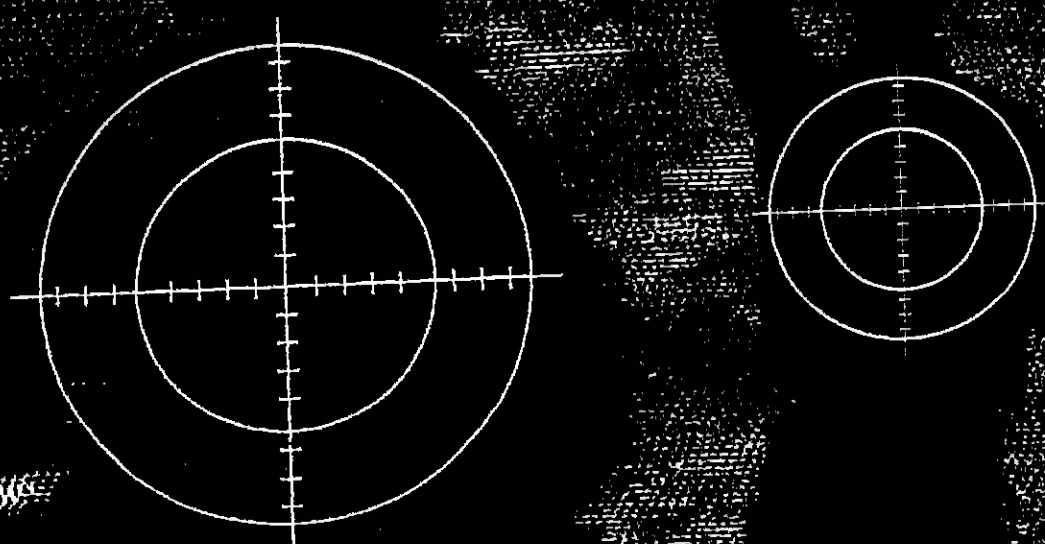
A Japanese destroyer will visit Vladivostok in Russia's Far East later this month, the first Japanese warship to call at a Russian port in more than 70 years, the Japanese navy said. The 5,200-tonne destroyer *Kurama* will visit Russia's main naval base in the Far East from 26-29 July to take part in events marking the 300th anniversary of the birth of the Russian navy, said Admiral Kazuyuki Natsukawa, the chief of staff of Japan's maritime self-defence force. *Tokyo - Reuter*

Zimbabwe's vacancy for the job of hangman has prompted numerous foreign applications, the Justice Minister, Emerson Mnangagwa, said. Only a few Zimbabweans had applied since the last hangman died in March, and applications have come from as far afield as Germany and Malaysia, he said, since the government had confirmed the death penalty for "four or five" convicted murderers, and a further 31 cases were under review. "There is even more need for a hangman right now," he said, adding that all applications for the job would be considered on merit. *Harare - AP*



Hurricane watch: A house in Loiza collapsing under a battering by falling trees and 80mph winds as Bertha, the first Atlantic hurricane of the season, raked north-east Puerto Rico in the Caribbean. Bertha, which has killed four people, yesterday picked up speed to 115mph and was heading for the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Photograph: El Nuevo Dia/Reuters

GOOSE GREEN NEEDLESS SACRIFICE?



on what really happened.

And we reveal how British Commanders came under intense political pressure to engage the enemy and avoid a ceasefire at any cost. A senior Falklands veteran even questions whether the battle was necessary at all.

MUTINY IN THE RAF

The story of an unknown revolt, and the harsh retribution that followed is one that the RAF would prefer was never told.

WILSON: THE FINAL MONTHS

Paranoia, intrigue and Intelligence Service plots are revealed in this explosive story of Harold Wilson's final days as Prime Minister.

SECRET HISTORY
Thursdays at 9.00pm

4

Ernest Armstrong

In Mr Barry's case, the cleaning and laundry services which he had been assessed as needing were withdrawn solely on financial grounds: that decision was unlawful.

الأسبوع من الآن

the leader page

The Chancellor bets all on some long shots

How will history judge Kenneth Clarke as a Chancellor of the Exchequer? As a cautious, prudent man who delivered a healthy economy to his Labour successors but lost the Tory party the election? We think not. As the laughing cavalier who threw caution to the wind in pursuit of pre-election tax cuts? Again, probably not. As a wily politician ready to take an optimistic punt on a rather risky situation?

That seems more like it. To the frustration of his colleagues, Mr Clarke has not been a flamboyant or cynical chancellor so far. He resisted pressure from backbenchers for substantial tax cuts last November. He is going to great lengths to play down expectations of tax cuts this autumn. His interest-rate manoeuvres have been relatively orthodox too: when the economy started to grow too fast after the recession in 1994 he raised rates. When growth slowed again he began to nudge rates gently down again.

Understandably, Conservative MPs with modest majorities have not been wildly impressed by this. They see the shadow of Mr Clarke's sometime predecessor, Roy Jenkins, flickering on the Treasury walls. Jenkins had played a prudent game but was widely blamed by his peers for losing Labour the 1970 election by being excessively responsible – a charge he has always denied. But is it really plausible that Kenneth

Clarke, one of the most consummate politicians in the game, should resist the opportunity to play politics this time? He is a man who loves government and will not give it up lightly. He will not saunter away from the Tories' last hopes for a 1997 victory.

He is a gambler. He is taking a calculated risk with the public finances, with the economy and with public opinion. And like all good gamblers, he is playing with concentration, and to win.

Consider the state of the public purse. Cash has not been flowing into the Treasury this year quite as fast as the cabinet had hoped. In Mr Clarke's summer forecast, he revised his estimate of this year's government borrowing up from £22bn to £27bn. Next year's borrowing is now expected to be £23bn rather than £15bn – a big gap. And we have no idea what will happen to borrowing after that.

The tax cuts Mr Clarke and his predecessor Norman Lamont put in place were supposed to remedy once and for all a structural problem in the Government's deficit. But with borrowing still at £27bn after five years of growth and billions of pounds of tax increases, it seems they were not successful.

We should be grateful, perhaps, that Mr Clarke is not yet advocating tax cuts for this year, too. To cut taxes further right now would be economically crazy. But we shall have to wait, sceptically, and see: the

Treasury may well have built room for income tax cuts into these forecasts.

The Chancellor is betting the public purse on the chance that the shortfall in revenue will vanish of its own accord. And he is betting his political future on the hope that the public and the markets accept his optimistic projections about the course of borrowing in future. Both seem long shots to us.

But they are not his only gambles this year. He is taking a punt on the economy, too. With tax cuts a difficult option, he is counting on some kind of economic feel-good factor boosting Conservative support. And he will be

reluctant to do anything like raising interest rates, which might quell that pleasurable warmth on the high street – whatever the economists advise.

As the Chancellor pointed out yesterday, everyone agrees that the economy will accelerate later this year. Firms seem to have stopped running down their stocks and are producing new goods. As European economies start to grow, exports should pick up again as well.

More important for him, consumption is growing strongly. We are all set for consumer-led growth. It is nothing like the investment-led or export-led growth that might have been more sus-

tainable. If long-standing weaknesses in the British economy – including skills shortages and low investment – prevent us from producing enough goods and services to satisfy rising consumer demand then we will have inflation back yet again – a poor reward for the bad times past.

Mr Clarke says that the British economy can grow at 3 per cent a year for some time without inflationary pressures building. Really? He may be right but economists at the Bank of England are not the only ones to be worried about inflation taking off in a couple of years' time.

From the Conservatives' point of view, one might say – so what? In a few years' time, surely the successfully re-elected Chancellor Clarke can sort out inflation, just as he did with growth? It is not as simple as that – as the wrecked reputations of so many previous chancellors demonstrate. Interest-rate changes take up to two years to have their full effect. If you want to start limiting inflation in two years' time you have to start raising interest rates right now. But can one really imagine a politician raising mortgage rates today to solve a post-election problem that voters won't perceive for several years? The Scottish money man who observed that democracy and low inflation may be incompatible had a point.

If Mr Clarke's political bets pay off, he will sail into the election with a

booming economy, some judicious tax cuts and a public that has chosen to forget about the longer-term risks. History would then judge him a fine politician. If his economic bets pay off, we will judge him a very lucky chancellor. If, on the other hand, the public choose not to give the Government the credit for recovery and choose not to believe promises of tax cuts, then it will be Gordon Brown, not Mr Clarke, who has to pick up the pieces of a fiscal crisis and an overbeaten economy.

Defence against the Englanders

Hadrian's Wall, as our heritage advisers have confirmed, deserves protection. One reason is the embarrassment it causes Little Englanders. Sketchy on the facts of history, they celebrate the wall as a structure to keep out the Scots – who did not exist as such when it was built. But they are also passionately hostile to European unity, leaving them with this problem: Hadrian was Italian, and the wall was intended to protect the Pax Romana. It was, you might say, one of the first Euro-projects. It is such a symbol of European union, it should have been used yesterday to celebrate the 80th birthday of the venerable Ted Heath.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why we need the Church of England

Sir: Your leading article "Church and State would be better off divorced" (5 July) would have been more persuasive and responsible, had it attempted to argue for what it asserted.

First, though, may I suggest that the *Independent* is not the best judge of what is in the best interests of the Church? A minority of church people believe that the Church of England would be a more prophetic religious organisation with greater integrity if all formal links with the state were ended; but the most recent test of opinion in the General Synod saw a large majority rejecting moves to challenge even the most controversial elements of Establishment. The majority view remains that the Established status of the Church gives us distinctive opportunities to engage with and serve the wider society at different levels in the name of Christ.

Nor do I find more convincing your arguments that the state would be better off without an Established Church. You do not seem aware that there are other forms of Establishment, as in the case of the Church of Scotland, which do not involve a link within the monarchy and Parliament as in England; so you fail to consider options for reform, rather than outright disestablishment.

You produce some dubious negative arguments about the current situation. For example, you say that the Prince of Wales has made it clear that he is not keen on becoming Supreme Governor of the Church of England, which is untrue; and that the presence of the Established Christian Church "implies that there are no moralities other than the Christian", which is not at all the line taken by the Archbishop of Canterbury last Friday.

But your greatest failure is that you put forward no single positive reason as to why disestablishment would make the country a better place. It is as if "full" political reform (whatever that is) is an absolute good in its own right. But to what end? Why would debates in Parliament be better without the contribution of bishops? Why would most people be happier if the Christian faith were stripped out of our national symbols and institutions? And who would gain if the Church of England withdrew from its commitment to minister to every parishioner, whether devout church-goer or not?

English people know that the Church of England is there for them whenever they need it. They can opt out, but they do not need to opt in. Why would this be a better country if the Church of England had no greater responsibility than our other churches?

I am sure that the Church of England would not want to stand in the way of any broad-based consensus, properly informed and carefully argued, in favour of fundamental constitutional change. I suspect, however, that such a consensus is highly unlikely to coalesce around any proposition that destroying the public recognition of spiritual aspirations, currently expressed in the Established status of the Church, is somehow a self-evident good.

MICHAEL WINTON
The Bishop of Winchester
Wobesey, Winchester

Sir: As a Methodist, who believes strongly in the freedom of the



Church from control by the state. I am troubled by one problem which those who speak of disestablishing and disendowing the Church of England (leading article, 5 July) do not seem to have faced.

In various parts of the country, I have met Anglican colleagues burdened with the care of ancient buildings. These lovely churches are a valuable part of our national heritage, but for the most part they do not meet the needs of modern worshippers. The burden of maintenance prevents the church from devoting much of its time, energy and resources to its mission to the people.

If the state deprives it of the inheritance bequeathed by donors in the past, and fails to relieve it of this burden, it will damage it irreparably.

The Rev FRED PRITCHARD
Newport, Gwent

Sir: Without wishing to disagree with your editorial conclusion (5 July) on the disestablishment of the Anglican Church, I must take issue with your observation that the church is only attended "by a tiny handful of people".

Less than 10 per cent of the population, certainly, but considerably more than the total membership of all the political parties. You may argue that those political parties attract 70 per cent of the population at a general election. Yes, but at the same time that they believe in God. Corporate activity is in decline in all walks of life in this country, even football.

NORMAN WEBB
Halifax, West Yorkshire

Tory pursuit of the car economy

Sir: John Gummer really must be a beefburger short of a picnic if he believes that the current Tory government has a "strong environmental record" and that many of the problems are because opposition pressure is lacking (Letters, 5 July).

In the last 17 years we have seen ideologically driven road building in this country on a scale previously unheard of. Swathes of irreplaceable countryside have been concreted, and ecosystems destroyed, to pursue the Thatcherite myth of the Great Car Economy. It is now a commonplace that building roads does not ease transport problems but can actually create more traffic, congestion and pollution.

The Conservatives recently announced another £100m to widen one tiny part of the M25 which, by their own calculations, will be back to current levels of congestion within 10 years. That money could have paid for 100 bus stations, more than 1,000 state of the art clean and green buses or 5,000 kilometres of bus priority and cycle networks.

The Government has published a report on the effects of climate change, yet their extra roads and traffic policies have added to CO₂ emissions and global warming.

The Labour Party is committed to developing sustainable transport. This means providing all of us with real choices and alternatives to car use – making it

safe for people to cycle and walk our streets, having better quality bus services, and a rail network that puts passengers before profits.

GRAHAM ALLEN MP
(Nottingham North, Lab)
London SW1

Sir: How can John Gummer justify his claim (Letter, 5 July) that this government has a "strong environmental record"? It has done very little to promote recycling and reuse. It has failed to protect environmentally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It has made little genuine effort to discourage excessive car use but instead presided over unprecedented road building.

The Climate Action Network UK (Letter, 5 July) calls for the UK to reduce CO₂ by at least 20 per cent of 1990 levels by 2005. We should make a start now, by cancelling the Newbury bypass, the Worcester second bypass, and all the other road-building nonsense that this government has currently in hand.

ROBIN P M CLARKE
Birmingham

Students do listen to each other

Sir: I feel compelled to respond to your article regarding the adequacy of the training of Nightline organisations at various universities (Section Two: "Helpline need a Samaritan", 27 June). While it may be true that several Nightlines could be substantially improved by more

prolonged and greater detailed training it is ridiculous to suggest that such a service should not be offered to students.

There was no mention of the fact that many Nightlines do have several weekends of intensive training which is approved of by fully trained Samaritans who are invited to attend.

The article also failed to appreciate the value of a listening service run specifically for students by members of their own age group and from the same student environment. There can be little doubt that it is preferable for extensively trained Samaritans to be taking calls from members of the wider community. However, I believe that student volunteers – with proper training – are particularly well suited to be taking calls from their fellow students as they are more likely to be in touch with the worries and hardships encountered in everyday student life.

BOB LAST
Co-ordinator
Birmingham Nightline
Birmingham University

The value of local councillors

Sir: As the leader of Lambeth's largest political party, I am naturally delighted with your coverage of our efforts to clear up the mess in Lambeth and the activities of the dynamic new chief executive we have appointed ("Meet Heather, Britain's town

hall terminator", 8 July).

By failing to mention elected councillors, however, a totally misleading picture is presented of how local government actually works. Across Britain, some 20,000 councillors volunteer their time to appoint senior officers, decide policies, approve major management decisions, determine tax levels and set (normally out) budgets.

Lambeth is no exception. It was politicians, aided and abetted by incompetent officers, who created the mess. Now it is politicians, helped by competent officers, who are clearing it up.

Councillor MIKE TUFFREY
Leader, Lambeth Lib Dems
London Borough of Lambeth, London SW2

Mandela heads for Trafalgar Square

Sir: Twenty seven years in prison. The leader of an oppressed people is released and takes the oppressor by the hand and offers to share the power that is now his. Such reconciliation has few if any parallels in political history.

The GLC had the courage to place a bust of Mandela (photo, 9 July) on the South Bank. Smuts stands in Parliament Square. It is time for Mandela's fine head to be brought to Trafalgar Square, close to St Martin-in-the-Fields which kept the anti-apartheid flag flying, close to the Embassy that is now once again the High Commission of the Republic of South Africa.

The Rev Canon PAUL OESTREICHER
Director of the International Ministry
Coventry Cathedral,
Coventry

Charitable status of public schools

Sir: What Polly Toynbee describes as "the notorious Eton Question" ("A farewell to alms – of the donor sort", 8 July) is also the "school round the corner question". Scrapping the charitable status of what she still calls "public schools" would damage the latter far more than the former.

It would drive up the school round the corner's costs, force up its fees, put it beyond the reach of middle-income parents and restrict entry to those in a higher income bracket. It would also make it difficult for the school to award bursaries and scholarships to those needing help with fees.

At present, independent schools with charitable status give away through bursaries and scholarships twice as much as they gain from the financial benefits of charitable status. Prince William's education may not be "a charitable cause," but one boy in five at Eton is helped with his fees.

Ms Toynbee believes that, if something is not done about the charity laws, the public may lose faith in charitable giving and that this would be a tragedy. Odd, therefore, to want to remove the incentives for charitable giving. Odd, too, that more, not less, is being given to charities, even since the advent of the Lottery.

DAVID WOODHEAD
National Director
Independent Schools
Information Service
London, SW1

Sir: Polly Toynbee is right to identify the problem of what in the modern world may be defined as "good" as perhaps one of the most challenging questions to emerge from the Report of the Commission on the Future of the Voluntary Sector (8 July). At the same time it would be wrong for any government seeking a definition of "good" to fall into the trap of believing that what the public would wish to support only includes the "cuddly causes".

Over the 54 years of Oxfam's existence we have seen how reports of gross violations of human rights have inspired massive outpourings of public support for humanitarian response – from Biafra in the 1960s, Ethiopia in the 1980s and Rwanda, Bosnia and a host of other conflicts in the 1990s. All these conflicts have resulted in massive public support despite their "uncuddly" nature.

International conventions on human rights exist – but are honoured more in the breach than in the observance. It must be to the "public benefit" to see these conventions upheld. Oxfam would welcome the expansion of charitable status to include organisations that actively promote human rights, one of the principle recommendations of the report.

ED CAIRNS
Policy Adviser, Oxfam UK and Ireland
Oxford

Aged pilot

Sir: "How much is a pilot worth?" (Section Two; front page, 9 July). Although not entitled to the DFC, can sport most of the Second World War campaign medals shown on the left breast of your picture of an airline pilot?

I wonder how old he is? I am 84 and not allowed by my wife to drive a car further than my village street. Are we still in the hands of veteran like me en route for Timbuktu?

BASIL KENTISH
Farningham, Essex

Osama Bin Laden is a tall, slim man and when he walks towards me surrounded by his Arab "mujahedin" guerrillas in the mountains of Afghanistan, he towers over his companions. Huge insects fly through the night air, settling like burrs on the

At home in his Afghanistan fastness, Osama Bin Laden tells Robert Fisk why he wants to drive the Americans and British out of the Gulf

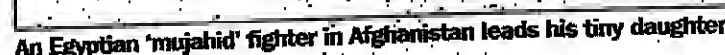
Bin Laden spreads his right hand and uses his fingers to list the "mistakes" of the Saudi monarchy. "At the same time," he says, "the financial crisis happened inside the Kingdom, and not all the people there suffer from this. Saudi merchants found that their contracts were broken. The government owed them 340 billion Saudi Riyals, which is a very big amount," he says. "It represents 90 per cent of the national income inside the Kingdom. Prices are going up, and people have to pay more for electricity, water and fuel. Saudi farmers have com-

producer in the world. At the same time he is suffering from taxes and bad services. Now the people understand that the speeches of the *ulamans* in the mosques — that our country has become an American colony. They act decisively with every action to kick the Americans out of Saudi Arabia. What happened in Riyadh and Khobar [when 24 Americans were killed in two bombings] is clear evidence of the huge anger Saudi people against America. The Saudis now know the real enemy is America."

There is a dark quality to B

Saudi Arabia's angriest diplomat reserves some of his fury for the British. "I am astonished at the British Government," he says. "They sent a letter to me through the embassy in Khartoum before we left Sudan, saying that I would not be welcome in the UK. I did not ask to go to Britain."

So what kind of Arabic Islamic state does Mr Bin Ladeo wish to see? Would thieves and murderers still have their heads cut off, for example, in a *Sharia*-governed state? Mr Bin Ladeo's answer is unsatisfactory. All Muslims would love to live under their *Sharia*, he says. A guilty man would only be happy if he were justly punished. Dissident? Bin Ladeo may be. But more crate, never.



Robert Fis

Robert Fisk is taken on a perilous journey through blitzed towns and dead fields

It had started that same afternoon when a man tapped with his car keys on my hotel window in Jalalabad. "Mr Robert, please come downstairs, there is someone to see you." The man in the lobby said his name was Mohamed. We had been about to set off when Mohamed climbed out of the pick-up

Out of the grey heat there loomed the ghosts of a terrible war, of communism's last imperial gasp; the overgrown revetments of Soviet army firebases, artillery positions, upended, dust-covered guns and the carcass of a burned-out tank to which no one could have survived. Amid the furnace of the afternoon, there emerged a whole blitzed town of ancient pallisaded fortresses; their mud walls shot through with machine-gun

And so we passed through the dead land. Once, as the white sun was sliding into the mountains, we stopped for the gunmen on the back to pull watermelons from a field. They scamped back to the trucks and cut them up, the juice dripping through their fingers. By dusk, we had reached a series of cramped earthen villages, old men burning charcoal fires by the track, the shadow of women cowed in the Afghan "burqa" standing in the alleysways. There were more guerrillas, all bearded, grinning at Mohamed and the driver. It was

night before we stopped, in an orchard where woodeo sofas had been covered in army blankets piled with belts and webbing and where armed meo emerged out of the darkness, all in Afghan clothes and soft wollen flat hats, some bolding rifles, others machineo guns. They were the Arab "mujahedin", the Arab "Afghans" denounced by the presidents and kings of half the Arab world.

They came from Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Kuwait. Two of them wore spectacles, one said he was a doctor. A few of them shook hands in a formal, rather solemn way and greeted me in Arabic. Mohamed beckoned me to follow him and we skirted a small river and jumped across a stream until, in the insect-filled darkness ahead, we could see a sputtering gas lamp. Beside it sat a tall, bearded man in Saudi robes. Osama Bin Ladeed stood up, his two teenage sons, Omar and Saad, beside him. "Welcome to Afghanistan," he said.

ENTRY FORM



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SO GET OUT THERE AND SNAP THE WINNER

Out of sight but not necessarily out of mind

Henman emigrated to New Zealand, where he took up chicken farming, but he often relaxes in the evening by watching videos of his successes against Pafelnik and Gustavsson, occasionally

"I'm not going to make the mistake in the film which I made in the Report," he is quoted as saying. "In the Report I made the mistake of reporting the facts and leaving everyone to draw their conclusions. Unfortunately, everyone drew their own conclusions."



Miles Kington

There has always been a tendency to view Archer as a man who invented his own past, a view which Archer hotly resents, so when he found himself being described as an "incorrigible storyteller and fertile fabricator", he ordered his

William Waldegrave
Once ubiquitous on the airwaves, nothing has been heard of this promising young politician for years. He is, in fact, locked up in Brian Mawhinney's back room, where he can do no harm by going back on the airwaves. He shares the room with Virginia Bottomley.

Madonna
Nothing has been heard of this tempestuous star since

she disappeared to South America to play the part of Eva Perón in a movie about her life. Having negotiated that minefield successfully, she now thinks she is ready to tackle the big one: to play the lead role in the life story of Margaret Thatcher.

"As a Catholic, I see Margaret as a mix of warrior queen and martyr," she says. "I don't see where we get the sex in yet, but no doubt we'll manage."

Brian Mahwinney and Michael Heseltine
Older readers may well remember this once-popular music-hall comedy duo, whose catch phrase was: "All right, we may not be all that funny, but have you seen the alternative, because if you have, you wouldn't grumble so much about us, would you, eh, missus?"

It was reckoned to be the longest and least catchy catchphrase in show biz history and this, if for no other reason, endeared them to some parts of the audience. The are at present doing the club somewhere in the South-east.

هكذا مضى الى جبل

15 من الايام

the commentators

Frightened men, beware! Women are set to fight

Society has put women in the military but not in to combat. The Army should break this last taboo

Can women fight? The Army Board is drawing up new recommendations on women's fighting role. Currently half the posts in the army are denied to women and the board will recommend throwing many of them open. However, there will be no hand-to-hand combat – no "teeth arms" work, in army argot. Fighting divisions will not be opened up – yet. But the board saw no reason in principle why women should not join the front line.

If they did let women fight, the actual numbers volunteering for combat would probably be tiny – women only form 5.4 per cent of the army. Already they do far more daring tasks than they did 10 years ago. They have driven trucks, ambulances and run signals right up to the front line in Bosnia and the Gulf. They carry guns, but only for self-defence. Navy women serve on battleships and they fly fighter planes. So what difference would it make to move women into the army front line? In practical terms, very little, as it is only a minor operational mat-

ter. But it was not practical considerations that made the Army Board stay its hand.

Spotting the land mines ahead, the board held back because it believes that British society is not yet ready for the front-line woman soldier. They recognise the symbolic power of the image of a fighting woman.

Women fighting from the air or a battleship may be dangerous, but this is relatively decorous and ladylike. Bayonetting people is not.

The army fears getting ahead of public taste – but is it right? The idea of women commandos and marines appeals to all sorts of tastes (mainly pornographic). But it would also fuel more of that panicky male backlash – the "men-have-lost-their-role" brigade. It makes women look dangerous, giving them a frightening new public face.

All this takes me back to the Seventies when I joined the Women's Royal Army Corps (WRAC) – not

to fight for Queen and country but as an under-cover investigative reporter for several weeks. It was by far the toughest and nastiest assignment I ever undertook. The newsdesk used to hold their sides and howl with laughter when I phoned in desperately seeking any quicker way the lawyers could get me out. (Yes, I know being a real war correspondent is worse, but that's one assignment I've not yet had to face. Thankfully, this is the closest I've ever come.)

The army then, as now, demands that its soldiers surrender all autonomy to arbitrary authority, which does not come easily to most people nowadays. If you join the Mooinies or a nunnery at least they don't have military police to keep you in.

It is unsurprising that the army is short of some 4,000 recruits. Perhaps it should make more effort to recruit women – and letting women fight might increase the numbers joining



POLLY TOYNEE

up. An equal chance to die is the only way the army can indicate publicly that they really do treat women equally.

Soldiering for women is restricted not by what women can do, but by notions of feminine seamliness. Not frightening the men was always the name of the game. Feminism might have been rampaging elsewhere in the early Seventies, but we were taught that women's military role was to be servants to the men.

We were in "support roles" – absolutely no guns. We were to be trained to peel potatoes, drive cars,

type letters, all to release more men for the front.

There has always been a strange sexual ambivalence about women's role in the army. In some respects women had to be like men – they could not get pregnant – a rule the army has had to pay dearly for in compensation to wronged pregnant women forced to quit. Women soldiers did not know what they were supposed to be – real women or real men. Either one was a trap.

In our repulsively tailored green Norman Hartnell uniforms, moulded-felt forage caps and flesh-coloured tights we were supposed to be feminine, despite the fiendishly polished black lace-ups. And yet within the ranks, the secret message was to swagger like the men.

The NCOs, dykes almost to a man, bellowed and yelled at us as we swung out onto the square. In step with our own proud WRAC marching band in leopard skins with euphoniums gleaming in the sun, we

bawled out our stilted regimental songs: "It wasn't the Wrens who won the war. The girls in green were there before. It wasn't the Wrens who were first in bed. The girls in green were way ahead. Inky pinky parlez-vous!"

Now the Queen Elizabeth barracks in Guildford is all bare ruined choirs where once the WRACs sang. The WRAC was disbanded in 1992 and women were integrated into the rest of the army – their only hope of ultimately gaining full equality.

What became of all those nut-brown, sinewy NCOs who loved life in the all-women barracks? Does anyone now scrub the lino behind the cupboards with brillo pads? What happened to the WRAC's own pop group, The Militaries?

If women soldiers wondered what they were for, the Aldershot squad-dies had very definite ideas: the first night we were allowed out into Guildford, they shouted across the

disco floor that WRAC stood for Weekly Ration of Army C... The women soldiers wanted to be attractive, but they wanted to be lads too, so there was a lot of uneasy braggadocio about drinking and sex. There was a perverse and confused kitsch about the WRAC: pretending to be men, but feminine too. Tough as the lads, full of boasts about knee-tremblers behind the Aldershot NAAFI, yet tender as geishas serving the men discreetly behind the lines in their ladylike army jobs.

Women in uniform will probably always be subjected to ribald mockery and a casual harassment. Perhaps they will never be taken seriously until they start getting killed. But letting women kill challenges the most fundamental tenets of sexual identity. Even Israel has pulled its women back from the most dangerous zones.

The army is right to realise that giving women bayonets breaks the last taboo – but the army is wrong not to do it now. If they wait until society – the frightened men – are ready for it, it could be a long time.

Ulster's blind 'underdogs'



ANDREW MARR

Blundering Unionist tactics have given Sinn Fein a propaganda opportunity

Northern Ireland is on the brink. But then, Northern Ireland is always on or near the brink. Even after wounds of nervous peace, in important ways it remains a society living on the edge of a nervous breakdown, a history-drenched province on the brink of the British Union, hanging by its fingertips from the edge of a secular, materialist country that no longer understands its own history.

Our familiarity with confrontation in Northern Ireland could easily dull us to the strangeness of the past few days. A community that prides itself on being law-abiding and loyal to the Crown, and which regarded the Royal Ulster Constabulary as its champion, is currently in revolt against the police and agents of the Crown and, in particular, the RUC. Dark-suited, church-going Orangemen find themselves being rebuked by people close to Loyalist paramilitaries of inner-city Belfast. In burning cars, blockading airports, stoning police, and accusing the state of depriving them of their culture, the Unionist rebels are behaving and sounding increasingly like... well, like republicans.

Early on in the peace process, Conor Cruise O'Brien predicted that it would break down. He mapped out how the breakdown of order would occur, with staged confrontations, escalating violence and rising demands made upon the British Government. What he did not predict was that these things would be initiated by Unionists, rather than Sinn Fein.

At first sight, the timing seems extraordinary, a gormless Orange mistake. Sinn Fein had been in grave difficulty, shut out of the all-party talks yet with no plausible alternative strat-



Bowlers vs batons: Orangemen confront RUC officers at Drumcree on Sunday

Photograph: Pacemaker

egy. Though the IRA hadn't returned to violence on the streets of Northern Ireland itself, the killing of a Garda in the republic and the bombs in Britain had sapped support in Dublin and America. Gerry Adams's moving impersonation of Gandhi was ceasing to win him media applause.

And now comes this. If Sinn Fein propagandists had been able to write the plot, they couldn't have organised it better. Catholic families scared out of their houses by loyalists, just like in the Sixties; confrontations between Orangemen and the police; Major urged to disown the chief constable of the RUC. Oh, happy day!

Unionists have learned to play the underdog and to use language that is listened to by liberal opinion-formers, to speak of violations of their civil rights and of the threat to their identity. As with republicans, moderate Unionists have become adept at pointing, half-warning, half-threatening, to the gunmen in the shadows.

Whether this does them any good with liberal public opinion remains to be seen. Professor Steve Bruce of Aberdeen University, whose book *The Edge of the Union* is one of the best studies of Unionism, points out that they have a deep public relations

problem: "Ulster Unionists look terribly like the parents of people growing up in the Sixties – bowler hats, dark suits, stuffy, church-going."

The seriousness of their religious convictions is a problem for the British, too. "We don't much like religion and we are not actually too keen on people who take it seriously. Religion in Britain means Derek Nimmo in *All Gas and Gaiters*; it's about being nice to people," says Bruce. But, for Ian Paisley, "His God is a jealous god and his God tells him that the Republic is a conspiracy against the last outpost of the true Gospel." All of which provides a barrier between a certain kind of Unionism and secular Britain that PR will never breach.

Many Unionists would respond that the religious fervour and bigotry of Catholic Ireland is as deep-rooted – just much better hidden. And it is true that republican hardliners learnt the language of modern politics far earlier than the Unionist leadership. Many Unionists still tend to wear their bigotry (quite literally) on their sleeves.

How can we reconcile what seem like two opposing arguments about Unionism – that it is helping Sinn Fein by turning to confrontation?, and that it is learning from the republicans?

The answer, I think, is simple and bleak: the Unionists are behaving like losers. Their claim to be an endangered and minority species is only partly PR; it is also deeply felt.

And for good reason. Professor Bruce says, "One doesn't have to be a Unionist to describe everything since the suspension of Stormont [in 1972] as series of anti-Unionist actions by the Government." That is a political judgement, of course, not a security one. From the early Seventies, right through to the ceasefire and the Downing Street Declaration, the British state has spent words, money and the blood of British soldiers to defend the majority in Northern Ireland, while, again and again, putting political pressure on that majority.

Over two decades the Unionists have received a series of propositions about power-sharing, assemblies and compromises which they have been reluctant to hear. Their lack of an alternative political strategy has made them the nay-sayers, the immovable object, of modern Europe.

But this doggedness, this obstinate tenacity, has in turn helped drive them away from the spirit of modern Britain, even while they remain politically part of the UK. The more they

struggle, the weaker they become. They have not had the sophistication, to win a political battle with Irish nationalism and British pluralism. Whenever the political pressure for change grows intense, Unionism turns savagely provocative. It did so after the first attempt to broker a political compromise, the Sunningdale agreement, which was followed by the 1974 Ulster workers' strike. Now, as the political process is quietly insisted on by civil servants and ministers, it seems to be happening again.

At a human level, one can sympathise with the alienation of this community, once so arrogantly dominant, now sliding down. The whole world seems against them. Most of it is.

But this overturning of cars and stoning of police is futile. For Unionists, it is peculiarly dangerous. For the more Unionist militancy, the more anger is directed against the state, the weaker will be British sympathy and Britain's desire to help. Unless Unionism realises that political compromise is something to grasp, not something to fear, it will cut itself off from the modern world and make its eventual defeat inevitable. Unionists, the people on the edge of the Union, can still stone their way out of it.

A big 'Hello!' to the boys

You may think it just a frivolous girly pastime, but celebrity trivia traps men too, says Ann Treneman

Real men do read *Hello!* in public. Just ask Adrian Dixon. He's 27 and not afraid to admit to a glance at the great and glamorous. "Besides, everyone else would probably be trying to read it over my shoulder," he says.

This week the Great Gazza Wedding issue hits the newsstands. If you don't know what that is then you must have been out of the country when Paul Gascoigne and Sheryl Faires tied the knot. It's an exclusive like they used to do them, with a reputed £150,000 changing hands to make it worth the couple's while.

British Airways now stocks *Hello!* in first class and club class, but not for the proles in economy – 60 per cent of its half-million readers are ABCs. Launched in the UK in 1988 with Princess Anne on the cover, *Hello!* has become an adjective in its own right and copy-cat exclamation points are springing up like stigmata at Easter. Wannabes include *Here!*, *That's Life!* and *OK!*, which last week was running a *Boy watch* babe and baby exclusive.

But *Hello!* is way out front. It has its own curse (the latest victim is Margot Hemingway, featured before her death looking too happy to be true) and its own inimitable "news" judge-

ment. Who else would realise that what we really need to know is that Donald and Marla Trump have given their toddler Tiffany a "proper garden", by lifting 30 tons of soil to the top of the Trump Tower in Manhattan? Or that "intelligent" people would find themselves looking at all four photographs of heiress Tamara Beckwith ("the fiancée of actress Sharon Stone's brother") running out of petrol in Knightsbridge.

"We're almost an institution these days. For instance, people talk about a *Hello!*-style wedding," says *Hello!* publishing director Sally Cartwright.

One commuter, reading the *New Scientist*, said: "If it was next to me on the train, I would not be ashamed to read it." What he didn't say was that he couldn't stop himself from picking it up. "There are people who are addicted to light relief," says Ms Cartwright. People seem to view *Hello!* in the same category as chocolate; they speak of it as a luxury.

But it has yet to achieve the ultimate triumph – a cover declaration. "The Queen and Prince Philip invite us into their lovely home to share their sorrows and speak of putting family difficulties behind them." What reader, even of the *Independent*, could resist that?

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School walls should come down, not go up

Your child's life is at far greater risk from a careless driver than from a madman, says Christian Wolmar

The ghastly attack at the Wolverhampton school today bears picnic calls for a sober reaction. It is a time for leadership rather than hysteria from such figures as the education secretary Gillian Shepard, her shadow, David Blunkett, and David Hart (leader of the National Association of Head Teachers). They should pause before calling for massive spending on extra security in schools and instead should have the courage to say that making schools into fortresses is both impossible and undesirable.

The issue of school security is charging up the political agenda so fast that there is a danger of tabloid-inspired legislation such as the ill-thought-out Dangerous Dogs Act. Instead, those responsible for the education of our children must emphasise that schools are, per se, indefensible against the sort of attacks we have seen over the past two years. If a madman wants to enter a school with a flame-thrower in Northern Ireland, or with four hand-

guns and enough bullets to kill all the children in Dunblane primary several times over, then no one can stop him. What would a receptionist, for example, have done when Thomas Hamilton or the Wolverhampton machete man came up to her desk? Stick a lapel badge on him? She would have been killed or injured in the best answer.

As for much-vaunted high-tech solutions, there was, in fact, very good security at St Luke's school in Wolverhampton, with a high wall backed by CCTV cameras; but the machete man simply vaulted the wall. Schools, with their regular comings and goings of scores of children and their scattering of buildings with lots of entrances surrounded by large playgrounds, will always be a doodle for intruders to enter.

But even if it were possible to create totally secure schools, would it be the type of environment we want for our children? Do we really want our five-year-olds to have to wear ID cards as they trot up the stairs for assembly? The answer has to be no.

Mrs Shepherd should point out that between 1983 and 1993 the number of children killed by strangers each year was between five and seven. Dunblane, of course, will create a horrible blip in the statistics, but the long-term trend is for the number to decrease. Jane Kilpatrick, the deputy

The biggest dangers are from parents, carers and roads

director of the children's safety charity Kidscape, says: "The number of child murders was much greater in the Thirties, Forties and Fifties. The child murder rate has fallen by a half since 1973, while adult homicides have gone up by 40 per cent."

There are moments when I feel ashamed to be a journalist. There was one on Monday night, when Peter

Snow, leading a discussion about the issue on *Newsnight*, was completely thrown when Michelle Elliott of Kidscape said there were very few child murders and that Dunblane was exceptional. "But, but, there must be a growing problem," he blustered. The journalist in him saw that the story wasn't really there, but he had to keep on pretending it was, even linking the attacks with the murder of a nine-year-old girl on Merseyside.

Indeed, the media has to take much of the responsibility for the misrepresentation of where dangers for children lie. The daily coverage in local and national media of events connected with violence presents a world view to parents and children that is entirely misleading and creates an atmosphere of fear in which the development of our children is stunted. In fact, the greatest risks to children do not come from strangers, but from parents, carers and, most avoidably, roads on which 160 child pedestrians are killed every year.

I speak as the parent of three children, aged from six to 16. I am aware that letting my children out on the streets has some attendant risks, but the dangers of not letting them out are much greater. My 11-year-old son, who uses the Tube system regularly, has older friends who can't take a bus by themselves. As Ms Fitzpatrick puts it: "Ignorant kids are those most at risk. Many primary schoolchildren and even some teenagers are treated like high-security prisoners, never let out on their own and accompanied everywhere."

Incidents such as that at Wolverhampton will reinforce people's fears about letting their children out. That is why it is so important that political and community leaders do not jump on the "more security" bandwagon. Unfortunately, the truth is no one can protect children from people like the Wolverhampton machete man or Thomas Hamilton, but we can do our best to protect them from more commonplace dangers.

Clarke upbeat on growth and inflation

But £12bn jump in borrowing target takes City by surprise

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Kenneth Clarke yesterday held out to voters the promise of faster growth and lower inflation in the next 18 months, while admitting that the economy had not expanded as quickly as he had predicted so far this year.

The Chancellor also said government borrowing this year and next would be £12bn higher than he estimated in last year's Budget, although it would scrape below the upper limit set by the Maastricht Treaty just in time to qualify for the single currency.

Presenting his new economic forecast yesterday, Mr Clarke insisted that the budget was heading towards balance in the medium term, paving the way for the national debt to fall "in due course". But he added: "This year we face a situation where we are going to have to have tight control on public spending. He would cut taxes only if it could be afforded, he said.

Yet Mr Clarke's new target for the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) next financial year is so much higher than before that some City economists speculated that he was pencilling in a "surprise" tax cut to be announced in November. Others thought the new forecasts still underestimated the scale of the likely shortfall in the Government's finances.

Analysts also said the Chancellor's optimism about inflation paved the way for a further reduction in interest rates.

"He seems to be lining things up to say by the autumn that borrowing is not as bad as we thought, and lining things up for

lower interest rates as well," said Michael Dicks, UK economist at City investment bank Lehman Brothers.

Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown criticised Mr Clarke for failing to explain why his borrowing plans were "in tatters". Mr Brown said: "The black hole in the public finances shows that his economic management is neither competent nor credible."

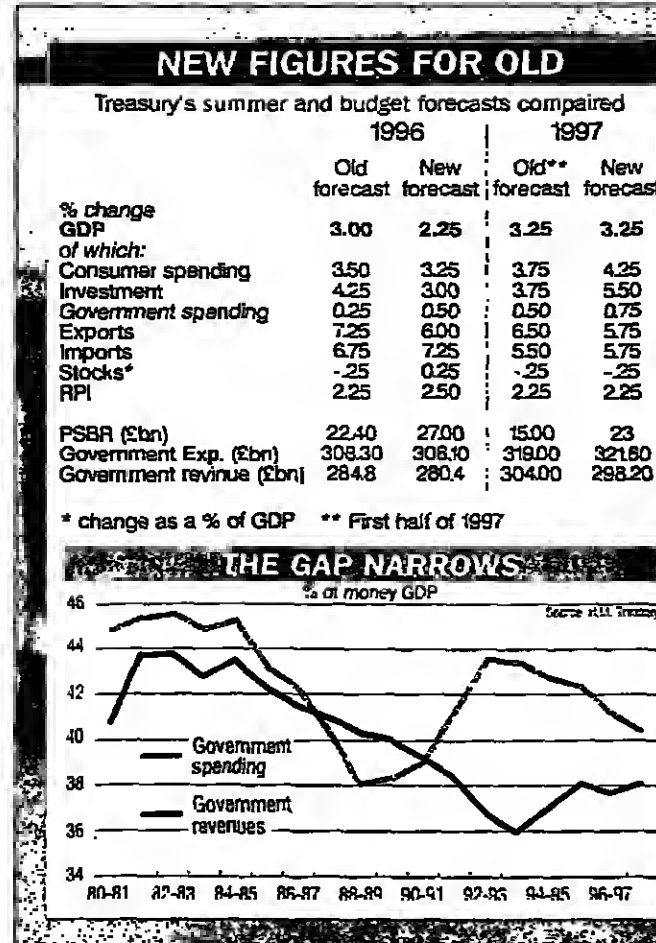
And Labour leader Tony Blair clashed with the Prime Minister in the House of Commons. "Isn't the truth that having promised you would cut tax, you raised it, and having promised you would cut borrowing, you raised it?" Mr Blair said, calling the Government's handling of the public finances "untrustworthy and incompetent."

However, Mr Clarke was in ebullient form yesterday. "We have never had a better combination of economic prospects," he said, claiming that he saw little danger of anything going wrong with the economy during the run-up to the General Election.

The new forecast has downgraded the growth expected this year to 2.5 per cent but predicts growth picking up to more than 3 per cent on average during the next 18 months.

Consumer spending, which was revised up in the forecast, drives the predicted expansion with a 4.25 per cent increase in 1997. This would be the fastest spending growth since the late 1980s boom.

But the Chancellor said a surge in consumer spending did not threaten achievement of the inflation target. "All the other evidence is that inflation



is very subdued indeed," he said.

In a remark that analysts saw as creating room for a further cut in base rates after his next monetary meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England on 30 July, Mr Clarke added: "I don't want to pick a quarrel with the Bank, but in the entire time I've been Chancellor their forecasts of inflation have always been wrong and have always been pessimistic."

Yesterday's forecast shows in-

flation falling below the 2.5 per cent target by the end of this year.

The Treasury forecast accepts that its previous forecast for the PSBR have been too optimistic. It has revised this year's target up from £22.4bn to £27bn and next year's from £15bn to £23bn. One reason for the revision is higher debt interest and social security payments, both outside the Government's control total. These have added £2bn to ex-



pected borrowing over the two years.

The bigger reason, however, is lower forecasts of tax revenues amounting to £10bn in two years. Although tax receipts are still expected to rise as a proportion of GDP next year, the Treasury said changes in the structure of the economy mean revenues might not grow as fast as it had initially expected.

It suggested that companies have become "more efficient in

managing their VAT liabilities", while the shift towards part-time work helped explain weak growth in income tax revenues.

The Treasury nevertheless managed to predict that Britain would just meet the Maastricht limit of a 3 per cent of GDP budget deficit next year.

The Government's PSBR targets are close to the City average, but the £5bn revision for next year took many analysts by

surprise. "It is surprising to see the combination of such a strong forecast for the economy and so little improvement in the public finances," said Simon Briscoe of Nikko Europe.

Adam Cole at broker James Capel said: "By the November Budget, the Chancellor could well be looking at revising the PSBR forecasts down." "It would be the perfect background to announcing tax cuts, he said.

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BT under new fire on tactics to regain cable users

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Pressure was mounting last night on BT, the dominant telecoms operator, in the wake of further accusations that it had run a "dirty tricks" campaign to win back customers who had switched to cable.

A further seven formal complaints were passed on to Ofcom by cable operators late last week, of which at least six involved accusations of tele-marketing of cable ex-directory customers by BT staff, in breach of the Telecommunications Act.

Ofcom, which is pressing for wide competition powers to regulate BT's activities, confirmed last night that the additional complaints had been received, and said it would make a statement today or tomorrow.

Until now, BT has claimed that ex-directory customers had been contacted due to a computer glitch, and that no one had been addressed by his or her name. However, the most recent cases involved tele-marketing by name, according to copies of the statements seen by the Independent.

According to one statement from an ex-directory customer, the individual arrived home to a message from a BT salesperson, who used the customer's name and asked that the call be returned. "Then I rang them back and said: 'I've never been on BT. What are you on about?' And by the way, where've you got my number from?" They answered cable.

In another statement, the cable customer asked how the BT tele-marketer had got the phone number. The individuals claim to have been told that the cable company had provided it, but that it was for emergency services only. "I've never been on BT," the customer claims to have said. "The operator then apologised."

In a third case, a cable customer contacted directly by the Independent that she had been called by BT and asked to consider switching back. She said last night that the BT employee had addressed her by her last name. When asked how BT had got the ex-directory number, she said the tele-marketer responded: "I don't know how they got it. I was just given it."

A BT spokesman said last night: "We have not had any case where an individual is an ex-directory customer who has been addressed by name," but added that he would not talk about individual cases. "We simply can't keep taking these sorts of innuendo and scuttlebutt" from the cable industry, he said.

More than 50,000 customers a month have been deserting BT in favour of services offered by cable companies. Competition in the industry has intensified strongly in the last month as large cable companies have cut prices sharply.

Penetration rates achieved by cable companies in some areas have been as high as 60 per cent, posing a big threat to BT's core business.

Granada to raise £1bn from hotel sales

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Granada Group is confident of raising at least £1bn from the sale of its 17 Forte Exclusive Hotels, the company's chief executive, Charles Allen said yesterday.

He added that would-be buyers, whose initial bids were received last Friday, would be given six to eight weeks to review confidential documents and visit hotels before a final list of five or six bidders was established.

"We expect to have all the sales completed by December," Mr Allen said. "There has been a huge level of interest, and already we have had indications that bidders are prepared to pay a premium for these properties."

He declined to discuss individual amounts for each hotel, or to confirm the names of potential buyers. Speculation has centred on hotel groups as well as wealthy individuals, such as the reclusive Barclays brothers.

According to documents seen by the Independent, the Grosvenor House is expected to raise at least £300m on its own. Granada is forecasting pre-tax profits at the flagship luxury hotel of £33m in 1996/97, compared with about £24m this financial year. Nightly yields are expected to rise to £160 a room from the current £112, under a profit enhancement plan.

The information is contained in the confidential sales memorandum sent out to 70 potential bidders. Granada declined to comment on the details.

The hotels disposal programme is part of Granada's plan to sell off unwanted assets, gained when it won its hostile £3.9bn bid for Forte earlier this year. In addition to the Exclusives, which include the Hyde Park Hotel, the Westbury hotels

in London and New York, and Brown's, Granada is also selling Forte's 21 Welcome Break service areas, its 68 per cent stake in Savoy Group and its 25 per cent holding in Alpha Airports.

Analysts said yesterday that the £1bn figure for the Exclusives was achievable, although one cautioned that Granada's own profits forecasts for the properties depended heavily on the hotels cycle. "Changes in

deratings, was also changed. The undertakings were amended following representations from rival operators, who had accused Granada of abusing its near-monopoly on Britain's motorways.

The most likely buyers of Welcome Break are the brewers Whitbread or Bass, the French hotels and services company Accor or a fast-food company, possibly McDonald's. Burger King has already reached an agreement with Granada to franchise its restaurants on Granada motorway sites.

Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, said: "My preference is to move very quickly."

Government policy on interest rates, an increase in terrorism, a fall in tourism - all of these could affect the profit," said one leading leisure analyst.

Mr Allen said the company was confident of being able to sell all the earmarked assets within the next 18 months, as previously stated. The Savoy stake will probably take the longest to sell, he added, because of the need to work

closely with existing management to find a suitable owner. He reiterated that a trade buyer was the most likely bidder for the Alpha stake, although he assumed that any deal would be accompanied by a bid for the whole company.

Granada has produced profit enhancement plans for all the Exclusives, and is working with general managers to increase yields. According to the sales memorandum, the Westbury hotel in New York is forecast to drive profits from about \$4m to about \$8.2m by 1999, with nightly revenues per room rising to \$191 from \$152. The Hyde Park Hotel is expected to see pre-tax profits rise more modestly, from about \$6.9m currently to about \$9.4m by 1999.

Granada has also introduced higher prices and additional services in its Travelodge budget hotel chain, which the company intends to keep. Mr Allen confirmed yesterday that the higher prices initially pushed occupancy levels down by up to 4 percentage points, although he said these had recovered, even as yields have increased.

It also emerged yesterday that Granada is in negotiations with its banks to lower the financing charges on certain Forte properties, including the leaseback arrangements at the Travelodge hotels.



Charles Allen: Confidential bidders will pay a premium

Many unaware of pension risks

NIC CICUTTI

Almost 2.5 million people risk becoming victims of a new pensions mis-selling scandal because of a "badly drafted" section of the new Pensions Act.

Those most at risk have opted out of their state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) and have a rebate paid annually by the Government into a personal pension plan instead. No other contributions are made to the scheme.

A clause in the Pensions Act, introduced last year, forces insurance companies to offer a special type of option, called income withdrawal or deferred annuity purchase, to all those with a "rebate-only" pension who are about to retire. In return for giving up an immediate right to a guaranteed, but lower, annual income they can draw down larger payments until the age of 75.

If the larger payments are drawn down until that age and investment performance is poor, pensioners would only be left a small pot of capital to buy an annuity to top-up the basic state pension.

Insurance companies believe that unscrupulous salespeople

could mis-sell such schemes to people who want higher payments immediately when they retire, without advising them of the dangers.

The Association of British Insurers, the industry's trade body, is so concerned that it is lobbying the Government in the hope of winning a change in the law.

One insurance executive, who would not be named, said: "What worries me is that while most of us will be scrupulous, it only takes a few to create mayhem. Even 1 per cent of mis-sold policies could lead tens of thousands of cases over the years. Unless we act now, we could be talking several times that number."

The new-style deferred annuity pension was given the go-ahead by the Government in November 1994.

Instead of buying an annuity - a guaranteed annual income - pensioners use a slice of their total pension fund to live on. The rest of their fund continues to be invested and is expected to grow faster than the cash draw-down.

If investment performance is poor, however, the value of the fund could shrink at the time when people need it most.

Takeover bids for Lloyds Chemists blight profits

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Lloyds Chemists yesterday warned that profits for last year would be hit by uncertainty over the outcome of the twin £50m takeover bids for the company. Both offers, from British rivals UniChem and Germany's Gehe, are on hold pending the outcome of an investigation by the Monopolies

and Mergers Commission and a ruling by Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang. The company said it expected him to announce his decision by 22 July.

The warning on trading caused analysts to slice around £5m to £7m from forecasts of profits for the year ending in June, leaving an outcome of around £50m to £52m. The shares slipped 8p to 469p yesterday, still above the 450p price at which Marilyn Lloyd, the wife of the chairman Allen Lloyd, netted £13.5m from a share sale in May.

The latest announcement comes after a profits warning by the company in April, when it announced a dip in interim profits from £26.6m to £25.8m. Although sales and operating profits edged up, Lloyds warned

that the full year's figures would be hit by £4m to £5m of bid-related costs and further losses in some of its drug store outlets, where morale had been sapped by the prospect of being sold off after takeover.

In a statement yesterday, the company said further progress had been made in the second half, with overall like-for-like sales increases. However,

uncertainty over the bids, their associated costs and the MIMC referral meant profit in the period would be "lower than that achieved in the first half, although not by a significant amount".

Michael Ward, managing director, explained: "Putting the business through six months of uncertainty when public statements are made about

what will happen to various parts of the business leads to extra costs which affect the profitability of the business."

One of the bidders has said it would close depots in the wholesaling business after a takeover. Inevitably, this will lead to the loss of the best people "because they have wives and mortgages and children", he claimed.

STOCK MARKETS						
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1995 High	1996 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	3752.30	+10.80	+0.3	3857.10	3639.50	4.05
FTSE 250	4347.70	+8.20	+0.2	4588.60	4015.30	3.43
FTSE 350	1886.50	+5.00	+0.3	1945.40	1816.80	3.91
FT Small Cap	2169.78	-2.20	-0.1	2244.36	1954.06	3.01
FT All Share	1869.19	+1.41	+0.2	1924.17	1791.95	3.84
Nikkei	5578.90	+28.07	+0.5	5778.00	5032.94	2.22
Dow Jones	21919.82	-5.12	-0.0	22666.80	19734.70	0.721
Hong Kong	10929.63	+39.58	+0.4	11594.99	10304.87	3.391
Frankfurt	2562.18	+11.14	+0.4	2583.49	2253.36	1.841

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES						
Instrument	Rate	Change	Yield	Instrument	Rate	Change
3 Month	5.88	-0.01	5.88	3 Month	5.88	-0.01
6 Month	5.41	-0.01	5.41	6 Month	5.41	-0.01
1 Year	5.41	-0.01	5.41	1 Year	5.41	-0.01
2 Year	5.41	-0.01	5.41	2 Year	5.41	-0.01
3 Year	5.41	-0.01	5.41	3 Year	5.41	-0.01
5 Year	5.41	-0.01	5.41	5 Year	5.41	-0.01

CURRENCIES						
Currency	Rate	Change	Yield	Currency	Rate	Change
£/\$	1.5517	-0.0001	1.5517	£/¥	0.0094	-0.0001
£/DM	1.5570	-0.0001	1.5570	£/A\$	0.6223	-0.0001
DM/\$	2.3657	-0.0001	2.3657	DM/¥	1.5233	-0.0001
¥/\$	171.084	-0.0001	171.084	¥/A\$	1.0858	-0.0001
¥/DM	110.240	-0.0001	110.240	¥/£	97.5	-0.0001

NatWest Notice to Cardholders

NatWest announces the following changes in interest rates

	Monthly Rate	APR (Purchase)	APR (Cash Advances)
NatWest Access	1.56%	21.9%*	23.8%*
NatWest Visa	1.56%	21.9%*	23.8%*
NatWest Combined Card Account	1.56%	21.9%*	23.8%*
NatWest MasterCard	1.56%	21.9%*	23.8%*

(*) Based on a credit limit of £1000.
(**) If both NatWest Access and NatWest Visa credit card accounts are currently held and the annual fee is only payable on one of the accounts - the APR for the account without the annual fee is 20.5% for purchases and 22.3% for advances.
APR for NatWest MasterCard Loan - 22.1%.

Condition 11 of the Conditions of Use will be amended accordingly to reflect these new rates with effect from 1 August 1996.

NatWest
National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP

Conjuring trick leaves a tax cut on the cards

COMMENT

If Mr Clarke entertains serious hopes of still being Chancellor after the election, he should be trying to solve the borrowing problem the next Government will inherit

It is only natural that as the general election draws closer the smoke obscuring the public finances should get denser, the mirrors more distorting. The achievement of yesterday's summer forecast was simultaneously to increase the PSBR figures to more realistic levels, keep people guessing about whether there would nevertheless be tax cuts in the Budget, and predict that Britain will still be able to satisfy the Maastricht requirement that borrowing should be less than 3 per cent of GDP by 1997. So there you are, Magic. The Treasury officials who conjured up this one deserve to be put on one of those new fangled, Greenbury approved, long term performance related bonus schemes.

The Maastricht trick relies on the fact that the deficit that counts for membership of the single currency is a slightly different definition to the PSBR. It excludes privatisation proceeds but includes a variety of other transactions such as debt write-offs for public corporations and cash-flow delays. The upshot is that though it has been higher than the PSBR for the past 15 years, it will be lower in 1997/98. Nothing suspicious in this, the Treasury insists, just a fact of life. Jolly handy one, though.

But enough of Maastricht. Europe is boring. What we really want to know is whether the condition of the Government's finances allow Kenneth Clarke to deliver tax cuts. Borrowing may well turn out to be even higher than the Chancellor's new forecasts.

This would firmly close the door on any tax cutting if the Chancellor is serious about getting the budget to balance by the end of the century.

On the other hand, given that the Treasury prediction for the PSBR this year and next is now similar to what independent economists expect, Mr Clarke may be able to get away with what he did in the last Budget. It may be possible to find £2.3bn for lower taxes by trimming expenditure a bit here and cutting the contingency reserve there without entirely sacrificing his credibility as a Chancellor who is tough on borrowing. His claim that borrowing is on a downward path will still be true, as will his forecast of a balanced budget in the medium term. As at the time of the last budget, however, the "medium term" becomes a year later.

The chances are that the information available about revenues and spending by November will leave the latter option open to Mr Clarke. But if he is sincere about the need to reduce borrowing, he will avoid the temptation. The tax increases announced by his predecessor Norman Lamont looked for a while as though they had helped close the "structural" budget deficit, the bit that economic growth could not whitewash away. Unfortunately the Lamont medicine has worn off.

Slow growth in tax revenues due to changes in the economy ranging from corporate avoidance to the new "flexibility" of

the labour market have reopened the structural gap. If Mr Clarke entertains serious hopes of still being Chancellor after the election, he should be trying to solve the borrowing problem the next Government will inherit. All the same, the fact that the summer forecast gives him room for a minor tax cutting Budget if the politics require it must be something of a comfort.

With two weeks to go before Clare Spottiswoode publishes her final, final, yes, she really means it this time, FINAL, proposals for price regulation of British Gas's pipeline business (TransCo), there's no sign whatsoever of either side budging from the entrenched positions they have taken up. More than a month of screaming, shouting, lobbying and manipulating by British Gas has failed to persuade the regulator to alter her proposals one jot. As far as the regulator is concerned, the point about depreciation is non negotiable: either TransCo accepts this downgrading of the amount of depreciation it is allowed to take out of charges or the whole thing goes to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The body is not for turning, and no amount of pressure or lobbying will persuade her.

As for the other half of this review - tough new efficiency targets and a 7.5 per cent rate of return assumption - there doesn't seem to be much room for

manoeuvre there either. The regulator's view is that these are perfectly reasonable assumptions and there's not a snowball in Hades chance of the MMC being persuaded otherwise. Sulking miserably in the corner, TransCo retorts that it has not yet been allowed to see the Coopers & Lybrand and WS Atkins reports on which the assumptions are based. I'll publish them then, says Clare Spottiswoode. Er... hold on, says British Gas, we didn't say publish. There's a lot of commercially confidential information in those reports and we don't want every tom dick and harry gaining access to it, do we?

Why not, says Ms Spottiswoode. Everyone complains about lack of transparency in utility regulation so let's publish and be damned. And so the debate, of rather slanging match, goes on, and on, and on. The sooner the MMC is assigned to the case the better for everyone. The MMC might itself be a somewhat discredited organisation these days. But anything seems better than this. If the regulator is indeed shown to have got it fundamentally wrong, then the already strong case for root and branch reform of our regulatory system becomes overwhelming.

I may have taken the four partners in Airbus and their sponsor governments a decade to agree to turn the consortium into a single corporate entity but in retrospect that will probably come to be seen as the

easy hit of the exercise. The hard part begins now and, if past experience is any guide, Airbus will need all of the three years it has given itself and more to emerge as a fully-fledged commercial operation with its own assets and equity.

The most difficult issue is the respective valuations of the assets being contributed by British Aerospace, which has a 20 per cent stake, and the French and Germans, who each hold 38 per cent. BAE has a good case for arguing that its assets entitle it to more than 20% of the equity since its Airbus division, unlike those of the French or Germans, is profitable and efficient. BAE has also gone further than its Continental partners in subcontracting out its workshare.

Since BAE does not appear to want to increase its share of the equity, that would mean the other Airbus partners compensating it for the value of the assets it will contribute. BAE's shareholders would rightly castigate the management if it sold them short, but at the same time they need to look to the extra profit that will accrue if Airbus is placed on a truly competitive and commercial footing.

If the French can concede the principle that 38 per cent of each Airbus that rolls off the assembly line in Toulouse must be made in France, then BAE can afford to give a little as well. There is a bigger prize to be had - the prospect of a fully fledged European competitor to Boeing - which dictates that national considerations be put aside.

Major acts to stop regional squabbles over investment

MICHAEL HARRISON

John Major has intervened to prevent regional development agencies in different parts of the country bidding against one another for prestige inward investment projects.

The move is understood to have been prompted by Downing Street's anxiety to avoid unseemly squabbles between rival agencies and Government departments in the run-up to the general election, particularly on projects where large numbers of new jobs are at stake.

The Prime Minister is believed to have called in ministers from the Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland offices together with representatives from their regional development agencies to emphasise the need for a co-ordinated approach.

There was uproar in Scotland two months ago when it was reported that the Korean electronics giant Lucky Goldstar had decided to locate a £1bn plant in Wales. William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales, is thought to have offered a subsidy of up to £150m to win the project, which could create 4,000 jobs.

The Koreans pointedly refused to confirm they had chosen

Wales, although it now appears that the plant will be sited in Newport, Gwent and that an announcement is imminent.

Scotland had been bidding to have the factory built in Lanarkshire while Ireland was also a contender.

News of Mr Major's intervention came as the Invest in Britain Bureau announced its most successful year yet with a record 477 inward investment projects in 1995-96 worth £7bn-£8bn, creating 48,000 jobs and safeguarding a further 97,000.

In the past three years Britain has attracted 1,350 projects from overseas, creating or safeguarding 285,000 jobs.

The biggest single investment was a £1.1bn project by Siemens to build a semiconductor plant in the North east - one of 58 inward investments from Germany.

The President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, rejected suggestions that Britain was nearing saturation point after accounting for 40 per cent of all US and Japanese investment into the European Union.

But he indicated that the number of new investors was likely to fall, meaning that the IBB would concentrate more and more effort on overseas

companies which already had operations in Britain. Expansion by existing investors accounted for 57 per cent of the 477 projects clinched last year, compared with 55 per cent in 1994-95 and less than half at the start of the decade.

Mr Lang also denied that the Euro-sceptic wing of the Conservative party was deterring overseas companies from investing in Britain for fear of it becoming increasingly semi-detached from the rest of Europe.

"I see no indication of any anxiety because the Government remains committed to Europe and the single market," Mr Lang said.

But IBB sources said their soundings, particularly in the Pacific Rim, suggested that companies would not be influenced by a change of government.

Their overwhelming view also was that Britain was committed to Europe and likely to end up taking part in a single currency.

Of the total investments last year 46 per cent were by North American companies while 35 per cent were from Europe and 17 per cent from Asia-Pacific.

Crest oversees the dawn of a paperless City

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

Final agreements are expected to be locked into place today and tomorrow for the new Crest paperless share clearing system, three years and £25m of expenditure after work started.

The Securities and Investments Board will meet, in a ceremony next Monday, to give the regulatory approval essential before the system can be inaugurated by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The big share registrars that will use the system are also due to sign their contracts with CrestCo, the operating company, over the next 24 hours.

There have been hiccups in recent days over some of the details of the contracts between share registrars and the information network companies, Swift and Syntegra, a BT subsidiary, which handle the movement of data. These have to be signed at the same time as the contracts with CrestCo.

But Tom Morrison, chief registrar of the Royal Bank of Scotland, which had been digging in its heels over the contract negotiations, said yesterday: "There has been some movement today and all the parties appear confident that it will be sorted out this week."

Ralph Walrand, managing director of Lloyds Bank Registrars, said: "I finally expect all the contracts to be signed off this week. Crest will not be held up by contractual squabbles and will be operational next week."

The contract disagreement was over who bears the cost of fines for delays in service if they



Pen Kent: The chairman of Crest, which is initiating a 'paper-free' share-clearing system

are caused by the network providers. But Mr Walrand said he understood this to have been done a fortnight ago and the remaining details were "not showstoppers". CrestCo agreed to put a cap on the penalties to be paid by the registrars.

Crest is the settlement system

masterminded by the Bank of England when the Stock Exchange's ill-fated Taurus system was abandoned in 1993, having cost the City as much as £400m in wasted outlays.

Crest, headed by Pen Kent, an executive director of the Bank of England, has so far had

a direct cost - excluding spending by firms gearing up to use it - of £25m, with a further £4m to spend during the run-up period which lasts until next April. Shareholders, which includes the Stock Exchange with just 3 per cent, have put in £12m equity, and there is £17m of debt.

The first five weeks of operation will be used to set up accounts in Crest and to enter data, prior to the first settlement of a share deal on 19 August.

Mr Walrand expects about two-thirds of quoted British companies to transfer to Crest from October to December. By the end of April, more than 2,800 securities will be settled on Crest, representing 95 per cent of transaction volume on the Stock Exchange. Paper will have virtually disappeared for City institutions.

Mr Walrand said the vast majority of small private investors would not notice any difference as Crest started up and dismissed fears that dealing costs would rise, saying the worst that could happen was that costs to small investors would stay the same.

He said the workload of registrars such as Lloyds after switching to an electronic system would be unaffected since small investors, who own about 20 per cent of British equities, account for 80 per cent of the volume of work for registrars. The dramatic change would be for institutional shareholders, who account for most of the value of shares on the Exchange but only 10 per cent of the work for registrars.

Over the next few years, it is planned to reduce the Crest settlement period from the present five days, first to three days and then to immediate payment on delivery. Mr Walrand said it would also be "bugily beneficial" for London as an international market if Crest was combined with the Bank's Central Gilt Office in a single settlement organisation.

IN BRIEF

• Mergers and acquisitions activity is set to rise across Europe and especially in the UK over the next 12 months as a result of increased competition and a drive to focus on core businesses, according to Price Waterhouse. A survey of 500 top companies found 45 per cent planning acquisitions in the next 12 months. Activity was likely to be highest in the UK, where 63 per cent said they were planning acquisitions. The average number of acquisitions expected by the survey respondents was 3.4 during the year.

• Deutsche Bank is restructuring group management into four global divisions covering private banking, commercial and institutional banking, investment banking and group services. The announcement completes a restructuring which has been under way since Deutsche announced that it was to base investment banking in London.

• The International Wrought Copper Council (IWCC), representing copper fabricators around the world, has contacted the Securities and Investments Board to help the SIB in its review of the London Metal Exchange, the IWCC said.

• Docks de France, the French food retailer currently being pursued by rival French supermarket chain Auchan, denied that Tesco had made a takeover approach. Auchan last week bid £2.1bn for Docks de France, but Tesco dismissed reports it was poised to launch a £2.5bn counter-bid as speculation. Tesco said it was always looking for acquisition opportunities. It currently operates 111 Carrefour stores in France, which it bought three years ago.

• Strong demand for British Energy means the proportion of shares available in the UK retail offer for the company's privatisation will be increased, British Energy said. The deadline for applications for the retail offer is noon today and by yesterday morning 370,000 applications were received, representing about 270 million shares, with the average size of each application so far set at about 724 shares. The Government originally said a minimum of 183 million shares - 30 per cent - of the 610 million shares for sale would be allocated to the retail offer. The first instalment for successful applicants in the retail offer will be 100p a share compared with 105p in the international offer.

• Allied Carpets has published the indicative price range for its upcoming flotation with prices ranging from 205p to 235p per ordinary share. The mid-point of this price range values the company at £193m, but the offer size itself is expected to be £157.8m. The group, which owns Allied Carpets, Carpetland, Harris Carpets and General George chains, said the pro-forma historic earnings per share of the Allied Carpets unit was 11.5p for the year ended 29 June. The offer of 71.7 million shares comprises an intermediaries offer of 13.6 million shares valued at £30m.

• Reporting accountants will be subject to stricter rules governing the work they do on investment circulars, such as prospectuses and listing particulars, if draft standards issued by the auditors' watchdog the Auditing Practices Board yesterday are adopted. Comments on the exposure drafts of the first two statements of investment circular reporting standards have to be made by 31 October.

Heritage asks for suspension of shares

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Heritage, a supplier of housewares to retailers and wholesalers, asked for its shares to be suspended yesterday pending clarification of its financial position. The group, which in November appointed former Woolworths managing director Jonathan Weeks to its board, is not due to report its annual results until October or November.

The 23p suspension price compares with the 95p at which the shares were launched on the Unlisted Securities Market in 1988 and a peak of 185p later that year. They have fallen steadily from a recent high of 108p reached in early 1994, culminating in a loss of £919,000 reported for the year to April 1995. Gearing then was said to be over 100 per cent.

Jeffrey Lampert, chairman and chief executive, said the suspension had not been instigated by bankers. "We had problems with the computerised accounting system for our London company, which is affecting the year-end figures. Until we totally understand where we are, I don't think it is right to trade our shares."

The London operation represents a substantial part of the group's business but Mr Lampert refused to elaborate on the problems. Neither could he say how long the shares would be suspended.

Problems with a new computer system first came to light early in 1995. In July last year the company dismissed its finance director, George Raynor, confirming Simon Gold as his replacement in November. When Mr Weeks came aboard,

Brussels directives to push up water bills

MICHAEL HARRISON

Water bills could rise by as much as a third to meet the cost of implementing new European Union directives, the head of the water consumers watchdog warned yesterday.

Jim Gardner, chairman of the Ofwat national customer council, said the three directives under consideration in Brussels had enough financial clout to make it inevitable there would be a "substantial impact" on customer bills.

The average household water bill is currently £218. The in-

dustry will be allowed to increase charges by an average of inflation plus 1 per cent for the ten years to 2005 to meet an investment programme already expected to cost £24bn.

Under the draft revised drinking water directive, water companies may have to replace all lead pipes over a 15-year period, at a cost of some £2bn. This would add £5 to the average domestic bill.

Proposed revisions to the bathing water directive would replace guidelines on water cleanliness with mandatory targets requiring heavy additional

expenditure on sewage treatment, said an Ofwat spokesman. The third directive is an entirely new one covering demand and supply, security of supplies and measures needed to avoid droughts.

Mr Gardner said it was not yet possible to cost this directive accurately. However, he pointed out that when the urban waste water treatment directive was introduced it added £44 to domestic bills. This figure was subsequently reduced to £23 through efficiency improvements.

The water industry expects to spend £2.8bn a year between 1995 and 2000 and £1.98bn a year from 2000-2005 to meet environmental standards under current EU directives.

Mr Gardner said that the voice of water customers must be heard in Europe before any new directives were finalised. "We need to ensure proper and genuine consultation on this major tranche of proposed measures, and to see that their impact and effectiveness is correctly costed and the resulting charges implemented at a pace with which all customers, both business and household, particularly those on low incomes, can cope," he said.

Mr Gardner was speaking as the Ofwat customer council published its annual report praising the decision by a number of companies, including North West Water, Welsh Water and Wessex Water, to appoint non-executive customer directors.

Three of the four companies in the east of the country had also agreed to adopt a binding mediation and compensation scheme under which the Ofwat customer service committee decides levels of payment.

Lafarge lifts bid for Ennemix

PATRICK TOHER

The protracted bid battle for Ennemix, the aggregates bidder, took another twist yesterday when French group Lafarge increased its cash offer to 32.5p per share, valuing the company at £10m.

Lafarge's move came minutes after the stock market closed and followed reports that RMC, another industry giant, had increased its stake in Ennemix to 5 per cent after buying more than 1 million shares in the market at Lafarge's new offer price.

Lafarge said its UK subsidiary Norbit yesterday bought 618,500 Ennemix shares and now speaks for 49 per cent of the company. Dealers noted another active session in the shares, which closed 4p higher at 55p.

Derek Jenkins, RMC finance director, confirmed his company had been in the market buying Ennemix's shares for the third day running, though he thought RMC's stake in Enne-

mix now stood at "just over two per cent".

Dealers reckoned RMC's move was an attempt to prevent rival Lafarge acquiring the 90 per cent of Ennemix it requires to mop up the whole group.

But Mr Jenkins denied that RMC had sought to spoil Lafarge's previous, agreed 46p per share bid for Ennemix by purchasing stock through broker James Capel at 50p.

"It is a strategic move," he insisted last night. "We won't make a bid for Ennemix." RMC plans to issue another statement to the stock exchange today.

RMC is the third large construction company to show an interest in the tiny East Anglian-based quarries group. In April, Ennemix defeated a hostile £6.7m bid from Redland, the building materials group, which involved appeals to the Takeover Panel and disagreements about the valuations of Ennemix's nine quarries and 16 concrete plants.

Friendly HOTELS PLC 1995 RESULTS

RESULTS IN BRIEF

	1995 HOTELS & CATERING (CONTINUING OPERATIONS)
TURNOVER	£36,455
PRE TAX PROFIT	4,180
DIVIDEND	5.7p
EARNINGS PER SHARE (BASIC)	11.7p

- The hotels division performed well and is expected to show a further improvement in the current year. Provision has been made for the intended disposal of the serviced offices division.
- The significant agreement with Choice Hotels International was completed in May 1996. It provides substantial funding for further hotel developments on a larger scale, as well as the benefit from being the Master Franchises for Choice in the U.K. and Ireland.
- The Group operates 30 hotels with over 3,100 rooms. A further number are under active development.
- Fully diluted net assets increased to 362p per ordinary share.
- As is now customary, the Chairman and Chief Executive's role are being split and a new Chief Executive has been appointed.
- As a lean single core business with strengthened future prospects, useful progress is anticipated in 1996 and beyond.

Friendly Hotels - The Best Choice

For a copy of the latest Report and Accounts please apply to the Secretary, Friendly Hotels PLC, Premier House, 10 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB.

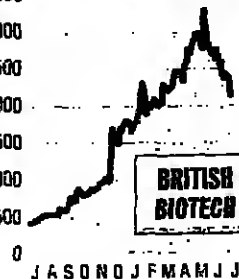
market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3752.3 +10.8
FT-SE 250
4347.7 +8.2
FT-SE 350
1886.5 +5.0
SEAQ VOLUME
701.6m shares,
29,618 bargains
Gilt Index
92.80 +0.14

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Share price, pence



British Biotech leads an ailing sector in the sickbay

British Biotech, only a few weeks ago the wonder share of the then high-flying drugs sector, slumped deeper into the sick bay, falling 135p to 2.128p - only 78p above its rights issue price. The nil paid rights units collapsed 133p to 80p. The agony at BritBio does not end there. Its £143m rights cash: the call has been underwritten by Kleinwort Benson. The group has led a ragged retreat of the biotech shares. In May, the company and the sector were riding high with investors stampeding into the fledgling drug groups, many of them nursing little more than sky-high hopes.

Like most of the pack, BritBio is deep in the red. Last month it accompanied its £143m cash call with a loss of £5.1m. But it made encouraging noises about its Marimastat cancer treatment and Lexipant, a pancreatic product. All then seemed well. The

shares, although below May's 3.265p peak, were comfortably above the rights price and there was little danger of the underwriters being called in to earn their rich fees. But BritBio came under pressure. Merrill Lynch helped the shares on their way when it said they were overpriced and, as is so often the case in the stock market, there was a sudden change in sentiment. BritBio was not the only to suffer: most of the so-called bio babes suddenly discovered just how tough the market can be. Still, it could be argued BritBio has seen it all before. Last year its shares were 445p. Among the other drug shares looking sick are Celltech, off 34p at 535p, after a peak of 683p; Chiroscience 8p down at 36p after 514p and Curtes International 12p lower at 23p after 418p. The biobabes are collectively 44 per cent off their high points.



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

The sudden sickness in the drugs sector is threatening the flood of new issue. Beeson Gregory denied stories that Alzyme, due to arrive on AIM with a £10m valuation, was in any danger. Camhrio from Henry Cooke Lumsden seems to be struggling and there is talk its valuation has been cut. Amid the carnage, the granddaddy of the sector and leader of the pack, Glaxo Wellcome added 6p to 879p. Glaxo's display was in line with the rest of the market with the two leading indices making modest headway. BSKyB, the satellite television station, was the best performing blue chip, gaining 14p

to 468p following its digital TV deal with Bavarian mogul Leo Kirch. Tomkins' attempt to throw off the yoke of the conglomerates image gathered strength with a 7p gain to 258p but Hanson, with NatWest lowering its sum-of-the-parts figure from 171.5p to 153p, shaded to 171.5p and BTR lost 3.5p to 243.5p. Granada, as Whitehall rather belatedly cleared the £3.9bn Forte bid, gained 9p to 834p and British Airways rose 6.5p to 549p on hopes of a settlement with its pilots. Expectations of takeover bids, as always, drifted around

activity were Standard Chartered, 17p higher at 652p and Cadbury Schweppes, 9p to 513p. Luxury goods group Versa, on renewed hopes of a mop up bid from Richemont, the Swiss-based, South African controlled group, improved 13p to 618p. Regional TV shares were again in demand with HTV up 7p to 357p and Yorkshire-Tyne Tees edging ahead 3p to 1.258p. Tesco, on fears it is about to mount a £2.5bn French supermarket strike which would provoke a rights issue, fell 1.5p to 300.5p. BTG, the old British Technology Group, celebrated its inclusion in the supporting index with a 20p gain to 1,895p. It replaced the suspended Wickes. Railtrack edged ahead 1p to 215.5p against its 190p flotation price. The shares have nudged 230p. On the grey market British Energy, with the public offer

closing today, was 111p to 113p. Applare, the garage group, reversed 9p to 93p following accounting problems at its lan Skeley Manchester dealership. Frost, the petrol retailer caught in the cross fire of the supermarkets price war, edged forward 2p to 98p with PDDM lifting its stake to 14.3 per cent. There is talk a hedge fund has a substantial short position. Eurocamp fell 13p to 204p on a profit warning. Ennemore rose 4p to 55p. After hours Lafarge lifted its stake to 49 per cent and its bid to 52.5p. Avocat Mining, a gold and tungsten group which arrived through James Capel at 240p in March, gained 14p to 180p. The shares have been down to 142p. On Ofex, Skynet, developing a car security system, jumped 55p to 250p. It was floated at 27.5p.

[Sunleigh, a struggling maker of baby buggies and golf trolleys, accounted for a large slice of the market action. It achieved a turnover of £4.7 million shares with parcels of up to 9 million going through. The price moved up 0.5p to 5p. The company has had a turn of only one profit recorded since 1990. The market guess is one of the institutional shareholders has called it a day, perhaps leaving the way clear for a cash and management injection. [Interim profits of Cookson, the industrial materials group, could be disappointing. Greig Middleton is shooting for £8.4m against £8.1m. For the year it is looking for a gain from £181.2m to £208.5m. The shares rose 4p to 262p.

Alcoholic Beverages

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Adnocom	10.00	0.00	100
Adnocom	10.00	0.00	100
Adnocom	10.00	0.00	100

Banks, Finance

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Banks, Retail

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Diversified Industrials

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Electricity

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Building/Construction

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Building Materials

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Chemicals

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Engineering

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Food Manufacturers

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Food Distribution

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Health Care

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Household Goods

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Insurance

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Investment Companies

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

International

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Oil Exploration

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Oil Integrated

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Other Financial

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Pharmaceuticals

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Retailers, Food

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Retailers, General

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Textiles & Apparel

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Telecommunications

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Transport

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Water

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Support Services

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Rights Issues

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Government Securities

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Index-linked

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Leisure & Hotels

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Life Assurance

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Media

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Printing & Paper

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Property

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Shorts

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Mediums

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Longs

Stock	Price	Chg	Vol
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100
Bank of Scotland	10.00	0.00	100

Undated

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Mandela in London: South Africans who fled from apartheid into exile can feel proud of their nation – and cry a few tears



Grand tour: The Queen and Nelson Mandela enjoying the acclaim of the crowds outside Buckingham Palace

Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

The man who made a rainbow shine

RAYMOND WHITAKER

The sky was threatening, but at least there was a rainbow. Traditional British ceremonial was no match yesterday for the sheer excitement that Nelson Mandela seems to inspire wherever he goes.

As his Rolls Royce swung into Horse Guards Parade for the formal welcome at the start of the South African president's state visit to Britain, more than 6,000 spectators waving the flag of his rainbow nation cheered, screamed and chanted in a manner never witnessed before at the arrival of a foreign leader. It seemed appropriate that the band of the Irish Guards played the theme from "Star Wars".

The large proportion of children in the crowd, many waving hand-drawn flags and posters, kept up the chants of "Nelson, Nelson" as he was greeted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. They continued even as the 78-year-old president, moving stiffly, inspected the guard of honour. On the dais, John Major must have wished he could provoke such adulation.

"When Jacques Chirac came last month, there were a couple of thousand people here, no

more," said a veteran of such occasions. "As for the noise, I have never heard anything like it before."

"I confess to being something of an Anglophile," Mr Mandela says in his autobiography. "When I thought of Western democracy and freedom, I thought of the British parliamentary system. In so many ways, the very model of the gentleman for me was an Englishman." He visited England for 10 days in 1962, while on the run from the white government in South Africa; now he is back as president.

The cacophony did not lend itself to reflection about the symbolic importance of the occasion: about how Mr Mandela had travelled from breaking rocks on Robben Island to being a guest at Buckingham Palace, an honour never accorded to any of his white predecessors. That moment came only during the playing of South Africa's two anthems, first the Xhosa hymn [Itlala] (Nkosi Sikelel' Afrika (God Bless Africa), then the Afrikaans anthem, [Itlala] Die Stem (The Voice). As a group of black children in the crowd sang the Xhosa supplication, there were tears among many spectators who had fled South

Africa in the apartheid years and settled in Britain.

Morris Mhlabi, 48, exiled in 1983, had brought his 24-year-old niece, Gloria Alfred, from Cape Town, to watch. "What do I hope for from this? I hope there will be lots of investment

in South Africa, and that people won't concentrate so much on the crime issue," he said. Mr Mandela's chance to appeal for trade and investment will come today [wed] at a business conference in London's Barbican Centre.

Under apartheid Mr Mhlabi would have been classified as black and his niece as "Coloured" (mixed-race). "But we're just one happy rainbow nation now," said Ms Alfred, who was wearing a "New South Africa" T-shirt. She clung to a

railing on the Mall to ensure that she could see Mr Mandela and the Queen pass by in an open carriage.

Last night there was a state banquet at Buckingham Palace for Mr Mandela and his daughter Zenani, who is married to

a Swazi prince, but the president, who has retained the habit of rising early from his prison days, will be out planting a tree in St James's Park at 7.30am today. Tomorrow he is due to address a joint session of Parliament and receive honorary degrees from Oxford, Cambridge and six other universities, but in a BBC radio interview he singled out the visit he will make to Britain in south London on Friday, saying he wanted to thank all those who backed his fight against apartheid.

The South African exiles in yesterday's crowd, however, wanted to thank Mr Mandela. Sally Smith was standing at the front in a Springbok rugby shirt – "and if you had told me that one day I would be wearing this, I would never have believed it". She was brought to Britain in 1977 by her mother, Margaret, a journalist who had fallen foul of the government.

"I'm going to cry today," was all Margaret could say, but her daughter spoke for her. "We came here when people hated everything South African. I've been here so long that I don't know which country I belong in any more, but today I feel very proud to be South African."



Handbagged: Mandela and daughter, Zenani, at the Palace with the royal couple

Photograph: Alf Kumalo

Mandela greeted by black Irish Guard

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

It may not have looked that way, but the Guard of Honour for President Mandela yesterday was drawn entirely from members of the ethnic minorities. They were all Irish.

A quarter of the "Micks", as the Irish Guards are known, come from the Irish Republic, 35 per cent from Ulster and the remainder from Irish families in Britain.

But, conscious of criticism that black and Asian people were under-represented in the Guards, the Army managed to put one black Irish guardsman in the front rank.

With President Mandela's visit, the Army's recent drive to raise "ethnic awareness" was put to the test.

The 1st Battalion the Irish Guards is the unit currently on ceremonial duties, and the Army said it would not have been possible to draft the small number of black Guardsmen into London to greet President Mandela; nor did they see any reason why they should.

The Army has been made acutely aware that the proportion of black and Asian people in the forces, and especially in the Household Cavalry and five regiments of foot Guards, is unrepresentative of the nation as a whole.

A recent study by the Commission for Racial Equality highlighted discrimination against black people in the Household Cavalry.

Until recently, it was not possible to determine how many soldiers came from ethnic minorities, because records were not kept in that way. It was left to the Prince of Wales to remark that there were very few black faces to be seen under bearskins.

But since June 1, revised forms have been introduced as part of a system for monitoring the progress of ethnic minority applicants in all three services, and a separate record has been kept on the ethnic origin of all applicants to the Household Cavalry.

Equal opportunities awareness is now part of military command training at all levels: the first lectures were given at Sandhurst in August 1995 and at the Staff College.

The issue is also now raised during promotion courses for corporals and sergeants.

Menzies' measures bearing fruit

John Menzies, like its larger rival WH Smith, has had its share of problems over the past couple of years. Heavily dependent on newspaper wholesaling, it was badly affected by the newspaper publishers' decision to screw down distribution contracts a year ago. That compounded difficulties Menzies already faced as a result of the shake-up in the market following a 1993 Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the industry. The resulting profits warning in January hit the shares, but figures out yesterday suggest Menzies' attempts to tackle its problems are bearing fruit.

Pre-tax profits down 5.8 per cent to £35.9m in the 53 weeks to 4 May were better than the market was going for and the shares responded with a 19p rise to 574p yesterday. The results reflected a modest £1m recovery in newspaper wholesaling profits in the second half after a £4m slide in the opening six months, which bore most of the cost of radical measures to revitalise the business. A 14 per cent like-for-like sales growth in the second half augurs well for the division.

Initial or first full-year contributions from three operations bought in 1995 helped offset the dip in newspapers, pushing profits from the whole distribution division £1m ahead to £27.2m. But the group's efforts to ginger up its retailing operations were again frustrated last year.

The first year of a three-year plan to rejuvenate the John Menzies newsagents chain saw a chip in something over £2m to these figures, up from break-even before, with sales in refurbished stores showing an 11 per cent underlying rise. But the good work was undone at the Early Learning Centre, the toyshop chain aimed at younger children, where profits dipped over £3m. The 4 per cent sales decline suggests it may be running out of steam in the face of strong competition from the likes of Woolworths and Argos. Outside consultants are taking a wholesale look at the business, but it may struggle as birth rates fall.

Arguably the best news yesterday was the forthcoming management changes, which will see the family loosen its grip at board level at least, although

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

it retains control of over 50 per cent of the shares. David Mackay, who moves up from wholesaling to the chief executive's post, has impressed City observers. Profits of around £42m would put the shares on an undemanding forward multiple of 12. They are reasonable value on prospects of further recovery, but the market is very tight.

Triplex bubbly in flat Midlands

If a Government-backed report published yesterday is to be believed the West Midlands is failing the UK when it comes to manufacturing productivity, investment and competitiveness.

Colin Cooke, non-executive director of Triplex Lloyd, one of the region's best-known metal basters, disagrees. "Mr Heseltine would be proud of us," he claimed yesterday. His boast is not an idle one. In the year to March 1996 profits on continuing operations rose to £15.4m from £10.7m, helped by a £1.7m property gain, on sales 8 per cent higher at £190m.

ings is unlikely to be enhanced if more property profits are booked, but the rating still looks a little mean.

Bespak set for growth

A shaft of light has fallen on Bespak. After a torrid three years and a management overhaul, the maker of asthma inhaler devices and valves looks at last to be set on the growth track.

Yesterday's figures showing losses of £14m turning into profits of £16.9m in the year to 3 May overstates the extent of the recovery at the group. Underlying profits actually rose 58 per cent to £8.7m, after stripping out a £10.2m write back of a previous £18.6m provision as a result of resolving the dispute over the near-disastrous inhaler contract entered into with ML Laboratories.

Even so, management are clearly producing the goods. In the UK, the launch of GlaxoWellcome's Accubaler dry powder inhaler in early 1995 helped drive profits 22 per cent higher to £7.6m. It is generating sales of £5m for Bespak and manufacturing capacity is being expanded. Meanwhile, the valves business has returned to more normal levels after destocking in the previous year.

The once-troubled US business also seems to have turned the corner, with underlying profits quadrupling to £1.2m, before restructuring charges. The Tenax North Carolina inhaler business saw sales rise 27 per cent. Bespak believes it has stabilised the fall off in sales of keyhole surgery products from Tenax Danbury in Connecticut after its main customer, US Surgical, saw its market share plummet.

The prospects for Bespak look brighter than they have for a while. As well as increased Accubaler sales, it has Medeva's new generic salbutamol inhaler, Rhône-Poulenc Rorer's Ultrahaler (taken over with Fisons) and a couple of new products from ML to look forward to.

Profits of £10m this year would put the shares, up 27p to 420p, on a forward price/earnings ratio of 16. Hold.

John Menzies: at a glance

Market value: £323m, share price 574p

Five-Year record	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Share price pence
Turnover (£m)	1.10	1.17	1.23	1.26	1.41	700
Pre-tax profits (£m)	16.6	30.7	34.4	38.1	35.9	600
Earnings per share (pence)	15.5	35.3	40.7	44.6	40.1	500
Dividends per share (pence)	10.0	10.8	11.8	13.2	13.8	400

A man with a mission to bring films to London

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



David Potter: Aims to get the City in the can

Rights Fund recently bought the rights to Sooty – although Mr Potter groans: "I think Sooty has had about as much coverage as he can bear."

Who is the Hnt Tub Sheikh? Over the past few months a mysterious Middle Eastern investor has appeared on the Chicago currency markets, taking multi-million-pound long positions in sterling-dollar options (ie betting the pound will rise against the greenback). Dealing desks don't know who he is, but he has laid such large bets that

the white-sock boys have paid him the ultimate punter's accolade and awarded him a nickname.

One senior economist recalls a similar anonymous investor who gave governments a fright by moving currency markets in the 1980s, who was dubbed simply "the Egyptian". No one ever found out who he was.

As for the Sheikh, who presumably phones in his deals from a hot tub, the economist muses: "He's probably just some lowly guy who works for Sun Microsystems."

The price per copy of the Treasury's summer forecast on the economy has risen from £6.50 last year to £7.50. This, as an economist points out, represents a 15.3 per cent increase, compared with headline inflation of just 2.2 per cent. Doctor, heal thyself.

When Granada's chief executive Charles Allen joined the company five years ago he suggested that they should buy five or six of the top UK football clubs as an investment. Boardroom colleagues thought the City would never wear it, and the idea was shelved. Since then, the City has done a 180-degree turn, feting clubs like Manchester United. Which does not console Mr Allen, since those clubs that have floated are already fully valued, with no bargains to be had. As ever with investment, Mr Allen reflected yesterday, timing is all.

John Menzies 15.50

Summer of sport

Wednesday 10 July 1996

THIRD TEST: Uninspiring England wrap up series but leave plenty of room for improvement

A victory that poses questions

England may have taken the unusual step of actually winning a series, but their solitary victory against a side in the throes of rebuilding was hardly resounding evidence of a revival, and despite the endearing hype and methods introduced by their coach, David Lloyd, world domination is still clearly light years away.

When stumps were finally and mercifully drawn on this toothless contest, England had somehow managed to bowl India out. As this was more to do with the visitors not wanting to bring Test cricket into disrepute, by prolonging the agony of an already defeated team, England's bowlers can only take minimal credit.

By some bizarre interpretation of the old supply and demand curve, they were still charging money to get into this game at lunchtime, which seemed a bit rich. However, those foolish enough to part with their cash would, after the previous torpor-ridden days, not have been disappointed.

For one thing, Sachin Tendulkar almost played the innings of the series and his 74 was simply total domination by another name. Coming in at 104 for 2, he lapped the bowling to all parts and judging by the ferocity of his strokes, it was clear that he for one, was not prepared to be swallowed up by the dreariness.

Sadly, that now appears to be the destiny of his captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, who completed a heretic tour with his second single figure score of the match, when he was brilliantly caught at mid-off by Dominic Cork. By the time India play their next Test, he is

DEREK PRINGLE
at Trent Bridge

unlikely to be in charge. By contrast, Saurav Ganguly, had every reason to be upbeat. But if his third century in successive innings eluded him,

DEREK PRINGLE'S ENGLAND SQUAD FOR THE FIRST TEST AGAINST PAKISTAN

England's bowlers can only take minimal credit. For one thing, Sachin Tendulkar almost played the innings of the series and his 74 was simply total domination by another name. Coming in at 104 for 2, he lapped the bowling to all parts and judging by the ferocity of his strokes, it was clear that he for one, was not prepared to be swallowed up by the dreariness.

Sadly, that now appears to be the destiny of his captain, Mohammad Azharuddin, who completed a heretic tour with his second single figure score of the match, when he was brilliantly caught at mid-off by Dominic Cork. By the time India play their next Test, he is

Trent Bridge scoreboard

INDIA won toss	
INDIA - First Innings 521 (S R Tendulkar 177, S C Ganguly 136, S R Desai 84, S V Manjrekar 53)	
ENGLAND - First Innings 564 (overseas: 550 for 7)	
D G Cork not out 32 (112 min, 96 balls, 2 fours)	
M A Patel c Manjrekar b Ganguly 27 (158 min, 77 balls, 2 fours)	
A D Mully c Manjrekar b Ganguly 1 (13 min, 9 balls)	
Extras (DLS 10, 15, 14)	39
Total (550 min, 158.5 overs)	564
INDIA - Second Innings 177 (S R Tendulkar 177, S C Ganguly 136, S R Desai 84, S V Manjrekar 53)	
ENGLAND - Second Innings 177 (overseas: 177 for 7)	
D G Cork not out 32 (112 min, 96 balls, 2 fours)	
M A Patel c Manjrekar b Ganguly 27 (158 min, 77 balls, 2 fours)	
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Extras (DLS 10, 15, 14)	39
Total (550 min, 158.5 overs)	177

in contrast to the previous four days of this match, when only 13 wickets had fallen, they positively tumbled yesterday, and 11 - including two of England's first innings - fell between the start and 5.20pm.

Of the remainder that fell during India's second innings, Mark Ealham managed to bag four, in the space of 17 balls. Unless injury intervenes over the next fortnight, he is virtually certain to play against Pakistan at Lord's.

Less certain is the fate of his Kent team-mate Min Patel, who wheeled away into the rough without ever really troubling either left-hander or right. Having taken just a single wicket in the series, he is in that unenviable limbo land of having learnt just about all there is to his art at county level.

He is phlegmatic, which is vital in a spinner. Yet if he is to improve, he must learn to spin the ball, a habit only a prolonged exposure to good players at Test level will help promote. On the evidence so far, he may not get it, and Ian Salisbury will undoubtedly become the name, the selectors will have in mind, as pitches become drier.

After the match, Atherton identified that England had settled on a nucleus of players, but were still trying to fit in the final nucleus. Whether or not that nucleus currently contains Graeme Hick is unclear, but with Alec Stewart playing well and Nick Knight recovered from injury, Hick has two weeks to convince the selectors he should be part of the revival.

However, when stripped to its bare essentials, England's resurgence has amounted to little more than a couple of competent one-day performances, followed by a decisive victory at Edgbaston on a surface unfit for Test cricket.

If England had truly turned a competitive corner, then they would not have allowed India to get back into the series with such a limp bowling performance at Lord's, especially after their batsmen had battled their way to 344 in trying conditions. By the way Pakistan appear to be shaping up against the counties, England will not find their second opponents of the summer quite so obligingly slow to start.

That said, England are virtually unrecognisable from the team that returned home from Pakistan last March. Since then, Lloyd has managed to raise both effort and energy levels, and if certain aspects of their cricket remains tentative, their

INDIA	total 144 for 3	extras	overs	WONGIA
DAVID	3			
DILKAR	30			
bowl 15				
owler 8	9	8	6	11
overs 10	1	8	11	8
wickets 1	1	1	1	1
no 31	32	8	18	31
1	17	2	103	3
2	103	3	140	4
3	140	4	5	5
4	5	5	9	9
5	9	9	11	11
6	11	11	13	13
7	13	13	15	15
8	15	15	17	17
9	17	17	19	19
10	19	19	21	21
11	21	21	23	23
12	23	23	25	25
13	25	25	27	27
14	27	27	29	29
15	29	29	31	31
16	31	31	33	33
17	33	33	35	35
18	35	35	37	37
19	37	37	39	39
20	39	39	41	41
21	41	41	43	43
22	43	43	45	45
23	45	45	47	47
24	47	47	49	49
25	49	49	51	51
26	51	51	53	53
27	53	53	55	55
28	55	55	57	57
29	57	57	59	59
30	59	59	61	61
31	61	61	63	63
32	63	63	65	65
33	65	65	67	67
34	67	67	69	69
35	69	69	71	71
36	71	71	73	73
37	73	73	75	75
38	75	75	77	77
39	77	77	79	79
40	79	79	81	81
41	81	81	83	83
42	83	83	85	85
43	85	85	87	87
44	87	87	89	89
45	89	89	91	91
46	91	91	93	93
47	93	93	95	95
48	95	95	97	97
49	97	97	99	99
50	99	99	101	101
51	101	101	103	103
52	103	103	105	105
53	105	105	107	107
54	107	107	109	109
55	109	109	111	111
56	111	111	113	113
57	113	113	115	115
58	115	115	117	117
59	117	117	119	119
60	119	119	121	121
61	121	121	123	123
62	123	123	125	125
63	125	125	127	127
64	127	127	129	129
65	129	129	131	131
66	131	131	133	133
67	133	133	135	135
68	135	135	137	137
69	137	137	139	139
70	139	139	141	141
71	141	141	143	143
72	143	143	145	145
73	145	145	147	147
74	147	147	149	149
75	149	149	151	151
76	151	151	153	153
77	153	153	155	155
78	155	155	157	157
79	157	157	159	159
80	159	159	161	161
81	161	161	163	163
82	163	163	165	165
83	165	165	167	167
84	167	167	169	169
85	169	169	171	171
86	171	171	173	173
87	173	173	175	175
88	175	175	177	177
89	177	177	179	179
90	179	179	181	181
91	181	181	183	183
92	183	183	185	185
93	185	185	187	187
94	187	187	189	189
95	189	189	191	191
96	191	191	193	193
97	193	193	195	195
98	195	195	197	197
99	197	197	199	199
100	199	199	201	201

Lloyd upbeat despite low-key finish

JON CULLEY

As champagne corks popped in the England dressing room, the coach, David Lloyd, joined the captain, Mike Atherton, in brushing aside the negative aspects of a low-key draw in the final Test, and talking up their team's chances in the tougher test to come against Pakistan.

Lloyd insisted: "Although the game here has been a disappointment in some respects, India have two of the best batsmen in the world, one of the best leg-spinners and two fine strike bowlers - and we've beaten them."

Atherton dismissed the suggestion that the series against India had been merely a gentle warm-up for the summer's meatier confrontation. "We've never seen it that way," he said. "And we can draw a lot of plus points from the series, such as the re-emergence of Nasser Hussain and Chris Lewis, the promise shown by Alan Mullally, and the good start made by Ronnie Irani and Mark Ealham."

However, the two found their views on Graeme Hick undermined by chairman of selectors, Raymond Illingworth.

Lloyd said that the Worcestershire batsman's form was not a matter for concern, while Atherton said: "He just had one of those series where things did not work out. I think he will be fine."

But Illingworth, in a television interview, said he thought Hick was tired and described his loss of form as "a mental thing."

"He needs to go away and become strong in the mind again," Illingworth said.

Illingworth also embarrassed the incumbent captain by naming Hussain as a possible future skipper. Atherton, mustering an awkward response, said that he saw the Essex batsman as "a good tactician and one of the guys I talk to on the field."

The Sussex player revealed two weeks ago to have failed a drugs test must now face a Test and County Cricket Board drug control panel after analysis of a second urine sample confirmed the presence of a prohibited substance.

Last night, the TCCB would reveal neither the substance involved nor the identity of the player, although the England A fast bowler, Ed Giddins, was named in news reports after the initial announcement.

The player has 14 days to prepare for the three-man panel, who could impose a four-day suspension, fine him up to £1,000, or refer the matter to a full TCCB disciplinary committee.

Tim Lamb, the board's cricket secretary, said: "Other sports may suspend people immediately they have failed a drugs test but that is not the way cricket sees it. We take the view that people are presumed innocent until proved guilty."

Final flourish: Sachin Tendulkar lifts Min Patel to the boundary yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

fielding has bristled with aggression and purpose.

Like India they have unearthed new talents, and the fruition of Nasser Hussain's batting talents will have been one of the most satisfying aspects of the summer.

His century at Edgbaston was crucial in setting up England's win and the fluency he showed here, was matched only by Tendulkar and Ganguly. Nobody can have been surprised when Sandip Patil, the Indian coach, nominated him

as England's man of the series. Raymond Illingworth was full of praise for the Essex vice-captain. "He's really come on in the last year or so and he's a good fielder. He has a big future, maybe as captain in the long-term."

Although that will be news to Atherton, who was born in the same week as Hussain, the England captain will miss his assertive batting, especially against the spinners, should his broken finger fail to heal in time for the Lord's Test on 27 July.

Coventry move for McAllister

Football
NICK DUXBURY

Holidaymaker Gary McAllister returns home this weekend and could soon be packing again for a £3m move from Leeds United to Coventry City.

With Arsenal and Rangers having baulked at the asking price for the 31-year-old midfielder, it is now up to the City manager, Ron Atkinson, to persuade the Leeds captain that a Sky Blue shirt would suit him better next season.

Another midfielder on the market is Middlesbrough's out-of-contract Jamie Pollock. The England Under-21 international, who is valued at £2m, did not report back for pre-season training yesterday and is understood to be a target for Aston Villa.

"Pollock seems adamant that

he wants to leave and there is no point in holding on to a player who is unhappy," Viv Anderson, Middlesbrough's assistant manager, said.

The Alan Shearer story yesterday reached the point where Oliver Stone could well have declared his interest alongside Manchester United, Newcastle and Milan.

Conspiracy theories abounded after the name of Blackburn's president of the penalty area appeared on a British Airways flight manifest listing a 30-strong United party for the club's pre-season tour of Italy.

A straightforward case of tomfoolery by an employee at United's travel agents proved to be the answer, but in the climate generated by a stream of Shearer-on-his-way stories - including United's kit manufacturer already stockpiling his replica shirt - it had been easy

to see darker forces at work. United want Shearer and have kept up the pressure despite repeated rebuffs by Rovers to offers of £12m.

However, Maurice Watkins, the United solicitor and director, quickly dismissed the latest Shearer association as "over-optimism", while the travel company - Travel Management of Learnington Spa - suspended an employee on full pay and later announced that an unnamed member of staff had "verbally added" the player's name to the written passenger list.

The company confirmed that United had no knowledge of the action and did not supply Shearer's name. It also apologised "unreservedly for all the embarrassment caused to Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers and Mr Shearer."

"I suspect this is some over-optimism on the part of a

travel agent or a sense of humour," Watkins said. "All I can say is that we haven't signed Alan Shearer."

If United continue to be thwarted, PSV Eindhoven would welcome offers around £13m for the 19-year-old Brazilian striker, Ronaldo. United would have to move smartly, with Barcelona and Internazionale already fighting over his signature.

Wolves have agreed to pay Leicester City more than £1m for the striker Iwan Roberts. The fee could rise to £1.4m depending on appearances.

Football's disciplinary structure is to be streamlined beginning with next season's Coca-Cola Cup. Red and yellow card punishment - apart from violent conduct - will be restricted to the competition rather than across the board.

Venables' offer, page 2

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Driving at 200 mph
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Converted starting to lose their faith

Since taking Murdoch's millions, the Super League has run into problems. Dave Hadfield looks for a cure to the game's ills

Last Wednesday was, even for the true believers in the flawed concept, the saddest day so far for Super League.

In almost eight tortuous hours at Wigan, the game's ruling council did everything it could to demonstrate that the vision of a vibrant, expanding game held out when rugby league took Rupert Murdoch's £87m last April was a mirage.

Their main task sounded straightforward enough: to decide whether South Wales should be "fast-tracked" into Super League.

If the declared aim of a truly national competition, reaching out to new areas and new audiences, meant anything, then the answer had to be yes.

But then the clubs discovered something that stopped them in their tracks. Admitting South Wales to their top table would cost each of them five per cent of their Murdoch money – around £45,000 per season for existing Super League clubs.

"We can't commit ourselves to that," said those clubs' representatives. So away they went, postponing a verdict on the Welsh initiative until next Friday.

That gives South Wales a very good chance of dying of neglect, something which would be worse than merely missing another opportunity.

Without a Super League club, there will be, within a couple of years, no viable Welsh national side and no European Championship. Given that the one tangible result of Super League worldwide has been to wreck the international calendar, that would be a further self-inflicted wound that the code cannot afford.

It suits the League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, to be able to shake his head in exasperation at the council's incompetence. The more incompetent it appears, the greater the likelihood of even



When the Broncos met the Bulls: London and Bradford, two of Super League's on-field success stories, lock horns last month

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

more power being concentrated with Lindsay and his board of directors.

But the game's central administration cannot wash its hands of responsibility for the shambles last week. It is another example of the lack of foresight in the mad panic to grab the money last April.

The result of that panic is that the structure is not right. The season is not long enough to be financially viable, especially with gates at their current, bitterly disappointing levels. Clubs such as Wigan and Leeds, to quote the two biggest, are playing fewer games in front of fewer spectators.

Even Lindsay now admits that there was a miscalculation;

a belief that the deal had to be done at break-neck speed before Super League and the Australian Rugby League came to terms and Britain's value as a pawn in the battle went through the floor.

Fifteen months later, that settlement is no closer, but in the frenzy of the time the money was all dished out as sweeteners to ensure that clubs voted for the revolution, leaving nothing in the pot to actually finance any progress towards the situation that Lindsay predicted so grandiloquently – with clubs in major cities in Britain and beyond.

Already, the League has had to cream some cash off the Super League clubs' allocation to

keep their smaller brethren in line and then some more to finance the game centrally.

Now, it is clear to even the doziest members of Council that the addition of any other club to Super League will involve hacking away at each club's slice of the cake still further. So, far from it being easier to expand the code, it is considerably more difficult.

One consequence of the hours spent on the South Wales question was that all the other gripes and worries that have been gathering momentum this season were ignored.

A sign of just how deep the doubts run, though, came when Alex Murphy said publicly what others are saying in private

– that the game should switch back to winter.

The idea that a move back to winter will cure all the game's ills is as specious as the mirror-image illusion of summer rugby by the universal palliative 18 months ago, but Warrington's football executive would attract a good deal of instinctive support. His club is certainly one of a majority to have derived no appreciable benefit from summer rugby so far.

"I've seen that people are blaming the fact that we're playing in summer," says Chris Caisley, the chairman of the one club to have really thrived on the change, the Bradford Bulls.

"I find that pathetic. Some clubs need to have a look at

themselves and ask whether they should be in Super League at all.

"My vision would be for them to go and make way for South Wales, a team in Newcastle and one in the Midlands. Clubs that have done nothing to make Super League work should ask themselves whether they deserve to be in it."

When you compare Caisley's blueprint with the current reality, it is clear that the game has missed its big chance to restructure itself. A Super League planned on the basis of geographic spread and catchment areas would have deserved the name Super; instead, the League messed it up with a hopeless attempt at forced mergers followed

by a retreat to the status quo.

Small wonder that Caisley came out of the meeting looking grim, but he believes the game could yet adopt the radical changes that are needed, with relocations and amalgamations back on the agenda.

"I think my own club should merge, with Halifax or Leeds the obvious candidates. What a power that would create! And this is the club with more reason than any to be pleased with its progress."

"We have worked really hard, but we look over our shoulders and see nothing happening."

Those who waited for the Rugby League Council to make something happen last Wednesday know what he means.

Britain's Kiwi tour plans in a muddle

Confusion surrounds Great Britain's tour to New Zealand this autumn with the news that the host country has plans for a four-nation tournament at the same time, writes Dave Hadfield.

The League here has released dates for a tour of Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand which includes three Tests against New Zealand in October. However, the NZRL president, Graham Carden, has thrown that blueprint into doubt by announcing a series of Super League double-headers, involving New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain and PNG, in Auckland, Brisbane, Christchurch and Sydney.

The plan, which depends on Super League's Australian court appeal succeeding, has surprised even the New Zealand coach, Frank Endacott, who said that he was "as confused as anyone else" by Carden's announcement.

The League is equally bemused by the alternative plan, and will be seeking clarification from Carden. The episode is the latest in a tangled tale of tour plans this year. Originally, Great Britain were due to tour Australasia this summer, but that was scrapped after the advent of summer rugby.

The next version was a tour based on Australia in October and November, but that has been blocked by the continuing battle between Super League and the Australian Rugby League.

St Helens and Warrington are rivals for the services of the Auckland Warriors prop Julian O'Neill, who is being allowed to leave for Britain to further his career.

One overseas player already with Saints, the Australian forward Derek McVey, has escaped possible disciplinary action by being told by the League that he has no case to answer after being placed on report during the defeat at Bradford last Friday.

Carl Metcalfe, a local businessman, has been confirmed as the head of the consortium which has taken over Keighley Cougars. "I and the backers who share my views have several million pounds of personal wealth at our disposal," said Metcalfe, whose plans include increasing the ground's capacity to 12,000.

Pakistan a truer Test

It was appropriate that the last day of this short series against India should have been enlivened by another exhibition of stroke play by Sourav Ganguly. In spite of two hundreds by Sachin Tendulkar, this series will be remembered longest for the emergence of Ganguly with his brilliant centuries in each of the last two Tests.

Although India will take a defeat home with them they have, with the establishment of Ganguly and Rahul Dravid as fully established Test batsmen, gained rather more from the series than England. These two will be even more important to them for they may now have reached the moment when Mohammad Azharuddin leaves Test cricket.

It is not often that a young man – there is some doubt as to whether Ganguly celebrated his 23rd or 24th birthday on Monday – makes such an impressive entrance into the Test arena. From the moment he walked out to bat in his first Test innings at Lord's he has looked a player of the highest class.

Henry Blofeld on the tasks England's cricketers face despite their series triumph

Even in that first Test innings his walk to the middle was relaxed and almost unconcerned, an impression he continued to give in whatever he did at Lord's and Trent Bridge.

His defensive technique is excellent, his strokes are all impeccably formed and he bats with something of the easy, angular grace which seems to be the prerogative of left-handers. His seam bowling is not negligible either.

Dravid's emergence has been scarcely less emphatic and he has displayed many of the qualities shown by Ganguly, not least as far as his temperament is concerned. India are indeed fortunate to have found two such talented young men – Dravid is 23.

For England, it has been a start. Victory in the one-day series has done something to

banish the memory of the disastrous limited-overs cricket in South Africa and Pakistan, in the World Cup, during the winter. Victory in the first Test then put everyone in the right mind for the more serious business of the summer.

The Edgbaston pitch played into England's hands but the drawn Lord's Test put it all back into a truer perspective. Even so, Nasser Hussain's arrival is as big a gain as Ganguly's is for India, and it now looks as if that troublesome No 3 spot has at last found the right occupant.

Pakistan will provide tougher opposition. Before the end of August it would be nice to think that the best spinner in England, Phillip Tufnell, will be back in his rightful position and that Nick Knight's fingers do not continue to get into trouble. It would be a help, too, if Graeme Hick could clear his muddled head.

Victory over India was a start but there is still plenty to do before we can look Australia in the face.

Venables offered role to run Portsmouth

Football

Martin Gregory, the Portsmouth chairman, faces an anxious wait to see if he has managed to tempt Terry Venables into staying in English football. Venables has been offered a partnership to run the First Division club and will mull over Gregory's offer during a two-week holiday in Bali

as he contemplates his future in the game.

Venables said his links with the Gregory family – which stretch back to his days at Queen's Park Rangers – may help sway him towards joining Portsmouth. "I don't really know where my future lies, but Jim Gregory is an old friend and I will do anything I can to help," Venables said.

Gregory, the son of the club's

owner Jim, wants Venables' influence to help revive the fortunes of Portsmouth, who escaped relegation last season on goal difference. The partnership would involve Gregory providing money from the sale of his business empire, with Venables using his expertise and contacts to help Portsmouth reach the Premiership.

"If we can get Terry, this club would take off. He has been a

close friend of my family for many years and his experience is second to none," Gregory said. "He would give us the spark that would lift this club up again and regenerate interest in us."

Falling attendances saw Portsmouth suffer a £1.7m deficit in their last financial year, with this year's figures expected to confirm losses in excess of £2m.

Christie flexes sore muscles before Atlanta

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Linford Christie, who pulled out of last Friday's Oslo Grand Prix in order to have treatment on a sore hamstring, returns to action tonight in Nice. He faces the man who succeeded him as world 100 metres champion last year, Donovan Bailey.

Neither Christie nor the Canadian have managed to make any impression thus far into the

season on Frankie Fredericks, who beat both in Lausanne a week ago, missing the world record by 0.01 sec. But Bailey, who has a 1996 best of 9.93, will be a serious test of Christie's fitness with the opening heats of the Olympic 100 metres only 16 days away.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Algeria's Hassiba Boulmerka makes a rare pre-championship appearance at 1500 metres, the distance at which she is world and Olympic champion. The

result will be watched with interest by Britain's Kelly Holmes, beaten to the world 1500m gold by Boulmerka last summer. The 26-year-old Army sergeant pulled out of the Stockholm Grand Prix on Monday night with sinusitis and yesterday withdrew from Friday's 800m run at Crystal Palace.

It means the double world championship medalist is having to make what she describes as "the biggest decision of my life" without completing her

planned schedule. She intended seeing how the two races went before settling on one or the other event – or both – in Atlanta.

Meanwhile Marie-Jo Percec of France is planning a run-out over 200 metres in Nice as part of her preparations for defending the Olympic 400 metres title.

The former UK 100 metres champion Bev Kinch, 32, has pulled out of the British women's sprint relay squad for the Olympic Games in Atlanta because of work commitments.

No one's playing in the NatWest Trophy now.

It's much too serious for that. For the 16 teams left in the NatWest Trophy, today's Second Round is more than just a game. It's a passport to the Quarter-Finals.

NatWest
More than just a bank

National Westminster Bank Plc

A day at the Regyeeatta with BMW man, Dave and Denise

BEING THERE



Ten years ago, before boom became bust, Jonathan Rendall sold the pleasures of Henley a hundred times over. This year he went back

The line of traffic snarled out of Henley, at a complete standstill. The Regatta entrance was still two miles away. The BMW in front suddenly revved up and disappeared down the drive of a country house to the left with a frustrated swerve. I followed it. A hand-written sign on the drive said: "Regatta parking, £5." But when we got down to the house there were no other cars there. The place seemed to be some sort of religious retreat. Everything was painted pale green.

The BMW and I drove into the middle of a vast empty lawn. The tinted window lowered: a man, early thirties, blond, blue blazer and cream trousers, either very posh or fake very posh. "Is this the parking?" he said. I said I didn't know. The thought seemed to simultaneously occur that maybe this lawn was not meant to be driven on. "We could always park back there," I offered, gesturing at a compound of pale-green Nissan huts by the side of the drive.

We parked on some loose gravel in front of a sign reading "Pilgrim House". The man from the BMW strode off saying: "We'll get a swift exit from the regyeeatta, eh?" I looked around for someone to pay the £5 to, but there was no one about.

Further up the main road, the crowds were moving along rowing followers. Dotted about were rowing followers, some quite elderly, in coloured, striped blazers and caps. They looked far more authentically like tubers of Refreshers than David Seaman does. But they were easily outnumbered by the corporate Johnnies, in panamas, and the blazer-and-flannel outfits, except they were more ill-fitting than BMW man's, either slightly too big or too small, so that they looked like overgrown schoolboys on their first day, wearing either hand-me-downs or uniforms their mothers said they would grow into.

Ah, Henley. How many times I've spoken that word? A thousand? 1,500? Not that I've ever spoken it, to my knowledge, at any time other than 10 weeks in 1986. That was the cowboy heyday of corporate hospitality. It had just taken off. The



Tales from the riverbank: Picnics by the Thames hold a greater attraction than the rowing competition at the Henley Royal Regatta

Photograph: Robert Hallam

people who were buying it didn't know the boom was about to go bust. Fly-boys and spivs were setting up hospitality companies all over London. Then they hired graduates or resting actors with middle-class voices to sell it over the telephone, cold-calling. There were some ex-Sandhurst officers who did it as well. They sold a lot.

I can still remember the patter, the menus. "Yes, Remenham Court, Henley. We've had a late cancellation and Tony/Philip/Patrick at IBM/Shell/Hansons said you might be interested. But I've got to know today, Steve. It was Steve wasn't it? Uh-huh. Of course. Champagne reception late breakfast. 11am. Four-course lunch, afternoon tea. Jazz band."

Yes, all at a most reasonable 1,000 per cent mark-up. And by the way you can't see any of the action from the marquee because it's about two miles from the course. We'll try to get a minibus. But this was the 1980s, so they went for it anyway. And the beauty of Henley was that no one wanted to see the action in any case.

Ten weeks was about average before people got fed up and left. Like many I'd been lured by a wholly misleading newspaper advertisement for "a career in international media for a sports promotion". One of the and sports promotion is now DI-something in *The Bill*. The only ones who stayed longer were the ex-Sandhurst officers.

Then in 1987 the hust came. There was some sort of hospitality scandal at Wimbledon. The spivs rented houses on Wimbledon Hill for the fortnight and put up the marquee in the gardens. It was all unlicensed, cash-in-hand, toutsville. A newspaper sent a helicopter up. There was a hilarious overhead shot of all the marquees. The police got involved. Sorry officer, all I did was invite a few friends round.

After that the spivs moved out or reinvented themselves and the big leisure operators moved in, so now it is a respectable industry, supposedly.

I first saw Dave sitting outside a hospitality tent midway between the start and the finish. This was about midday, among the ruins of the

leave the bosses with the clients over lunch and come back for the afternoon-tea session.

Denise was wearing a black cocktail dress that was rather too small. She was slightly drunk. Dave was definitely encouraged by this. But it was still early days, and they were talking business. "I mean, he didn't tell me directly he wanted a new marketing manager," Dave said. Denise and Ken nodded. Ken was wearing a new panama hat somewhat self-consciously. The bat was perched at a jaunty angle, but you could tell its unusual presence weighed down on Ken like a lead weight.

At the approved signal they left the marquee and moved along the bank to a bar. Dave and Ken went on to bottles of Molsen. Denise gradu-

caravan, all thoughtfully provided so that the great unwashed of Henley could enjoy the regatta as well.

Except no one was riding the bumper cars apart from the fairground manager himself, a man in late middle-age with a ragged grey quiff. Everyone wants to be a nob these days, of course. In the public-area car-park the picnics were being set up, everyone trying to act as naturally as possible, but in hushed tones. Well, the French do it, don't they? A wife hissed: "Mervyn, the chairs first!" And Mervyn staggered with the chairs, beleaguered. Why did she have to read that "Guide To The Season" in the Sunday paper?

The Molsen bottles piled up on the table. Ken had to go and telephone his wife. "What was Ken's surname

"I met this woman once," Dave said. "And she told me - 'what you've got to do is go out and enjoy life.'"

"Who told you this?" Denise said coyly.

"This woman," Dave said. Then the rain came. The rain spoilt everything. Everyone in the public area took cover under the roof of the bumper-car track. Denise's dress billowed beside a bumper car marked "Don Everly". The manager with the quiff was over there like a shot, getting into the Don Everly car. "Want a ride?" he asked Denise. Denise smiled weakly and said no thanks. "At least you'd get a ride, know what I mean?" the manager said. Denise edged away. And then the manager was crashed into at speed by two of the other attendants driving cars marked "Ricky Nelson" and "Eddie Cochran".

By this time Ken had returned. It was all over. Dave forcibly discussed with Ken what magazines he read as the rain pelted down. Dave said he read *Loaded*. In fact he was going to buy the latest issue at WFL Smith's in Henley that morning but then just as he approached the counter he realised he couldn't. I mean you couldn't turn up at the marquee with *Loaded* sticking out of your blazer pocket, could you?

In the rain the only people still braving the riverbank were a few rowing followers in the Refresher get-ups, gasping excitedly when the MC announced: "London are striking 36, and Thames 34." By the time it sub-

sided it was time for Dave, Ken and Denise to go back to the marquee for the afternoon-tea session. They trooped off. Classical music was being piped into the marquee to create the right ambience.

I went off up the bank to try and find Remenham Court. In the hinterlands beyond the start I found Remenham Reach, but no Remenham Court. Maybe I missed it. Probably it was too far away to get to on foot.

A blue lorry was making a slow tour of the backs of the enclosures and marquees. Black-ribbed pipes snaked from the lorry through the canvases. A sign on the lorry said: "Cesspool and septic tank emptying". Well, afternoon tea was the third meal in five hours, so some things must be inevitable, whoever you are.

Back at Pilgrim House there were still no other cars. The BMW had gone, leaving a black tyre mark in the gravel. I peered among the pale-green huts but there was no one, just empty rooms, a pulpit in a white-painted hall, and funny green stickers on the windows.

Then an elderly man in a beret came riding into the compound on an old bicycle - must be one of the priests. I waved my fiver and called out to him. He knew who I should pay it to. But he was just glancing with faint distaste at my ill-fitting blazer and rode past. It must have been one of the other priests who had thought up the regatta parking idea.

Everyone wants to be a nob these days, of course. In the public-area car-park the picnics were being set up, everyone trying to act as naturally as possible, but in hushed tones

champagne-reception-late-breakfast (nothing changes). He was in competitors, mid-to-late thirties. He was sitting with Ken and Denise. They were from the same company, but they had never met before. They were successful reps. They hadn't been invited to the company four-course lunch. They were there to mingle with the clients at the start, get the atmosphere going, then

ed to dry white wine. They looked at their Henley Royal Regatta programmes and professed bashful ignorance of rowing. The bar stood in a public stretch along the bank, between the hospitality tents and the nobs' enclosures up by Henley bridge. There was a small fairground in the public area, with bumper cars each named after 1950s rock 'n' rollers, and a gypsy palm-reader's

again?" Dave said airily. "Can't remember," Denise said, catching his tone. The sun was beating down more strongly than before. They left the Molsen bottles and Dave and Ken's half-eaten toasted sandwiches and went and sat down with the crowds by the riverbank. Denise took off her shoes and dipped her toes in the water. A race went past. "Oo, that one had pink ears," Denise said.

High moral cost of win-at-any-price mentality

Technically, just one man is on trial. It was after all Michael Irvin, superstar wide receiver of the Dallas Cowboys, who on March 4 was discovered in a hotel room with two topless dancers and, more important, criminal quantities of cocaine and marijuana. Michael Irvin, and only he, was target of the bizarre \$30,000 (£19,300) contract we now learn was later taken out by a Dallas police officer - apparently in response to threats made by Irvin against the officer's girlfriend, herself another topless dancer working the flashy clubs where the Cowboys stars would go for a little R&R.

Splendid stuff, and more than enough to distract the country's attention from weightier sporting matters like the Olympics. But the Irvin case is more. Morally, an entire team is on trial - along with its owner, the city whose emblem it has become and, more generally, an arrogant, above-the-law attitude that is corroding American professional sport.

Irvin, a child-man who rarely thinks further than himself, is one embodiment of that ethos. But his culture is a team's culture, shaped in turn by the culture of its oilman owner,

Jerry Wayne "Jerry" Jones. He is Dallas' special entry in the pantheon of American sports moguls, a veritable JR of that mostly unlovable breed. For him, winning is an end that justifies every means. Hence his end-run around the NFL's \$37.2m cap on total team salaries, designed to prevent the league being utterly dominated by a few big-market teams who buy up the best players. But in 1993, Jones contrived to pay his stable of stars \$62m, including \$13m to the defensive back Deion Sanders alone. Instead of wages, he doled out huge signing bonuses, respecting the letter if not the spirit of the law.

The win-at-any-price approach has paid off on the field: three Super Bowls in four years, and emergence of the Cowboys as the most valuable franchise in US sport, worth an estimated \$272m. Off the field however, it is another matter.

Gazza's birthday high jinks on Cathay Pacific are monastic self-control alongside the continuing excesses of the Cowboys. Since 1994, two players have been suspended for drug violations, two charged with drunk driving, and two more accused

SPORT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

Rupert Cornwell, in Washington, reports on the extraordinary trial of Michael Irvin

of sexual assault. And now Irvin, the latest example of the absence of a moral compass at the highest levels of sport in the United States.

The 15th of 17 children from an impoverished family from Fort Lauderdale Florida, he learned at school (where larceny charges were dropped to keep him on the team) that there is one code of behaviour for sports stars, another for everyone else. "Can I tell you who I am?" Irvin asked police called by a desk clerk to check the suburban Dallas hotel

room where he was cavorting. For his grand jury hearings, he turned up in a white limousine and a black ankle-length mink coat, as befits a Dallas Cowboy. Just for the record, Irvin is also married with two young children.

Or take Nate Newton, the Cowboys offensive lineman, explaining the "White House," a local residence allegedly rented on occasion by Irvin and a colleague for a more private form of R&R. "We've got a little place over here," Newton told the *Dallas Morning News*, "where we're running some horses in and out, trying to be responsible, and we're criticised for that too." Not, however, by anyone in authority at the team.

A moment then, perhaps, for Jones and the team coach, Barry Switzer, to show a little contrition, and point out to their millionaire charges that some basic and universal standards of human conduct do exist? Not a hit of it. For Jones, Irvin is hapless victim of his own and the Cowboys' celebrity. Did the team have a drugs problem, Jones was once asked. No, he answered, it was the league which had the drug problem, with its over-strict testing rules.

In fact the NFL, custodian of one of the most violent sports on earth, is a pussycat when dealing with its errant stars. A rehab course, maybe a short suspension, was all Irvin might have expected. And, at least until the sensational injection of a murder plot into proceedings, the law would probably not have been much tougher. Technically, he faces a prison sentence of up to 20 years, but usually a first offence for cocaine possession is punished by probation. Who knows, if the court buckles down, it can wrap up matters in time for Irvin to report to the Cowboys' training camp on July 17. Just as if nothing has happened.

But this time, among the wider public something has changed. One sports souvenir shop reports a 50 per cent decline in Irvin memorabilia, and in the Dallas media, normally the loudest cheerleaders for America's Team, the question is asked: what does a city gain if it wins the Super Bowl but loses its soul? Which leads, inescapably, to one conclusion. The best cure for Michael Irvin, Jerry Jones and the Dallas Cowboys, would be losing. Not just one game but whole seasons, and seasons after that. If only.

SPORTING VERNACULAR

No 5 WICKET

Some will take the view that the Trent Bridge turf has provided a bland wicket for the current Test. Others will perhaps feel that it isn't a wicket at all, that term being reserved for the frustratingly stable assembly of sticks behind the batsman.

Certainly the word has wood in mind rather than grass, being borrowed initially from a very old English term for a narrow gate or opening, often placed beside a larger door. This, then, is a simple matter of analogy - the stumps and bails look like a gate, so are given the same name (and if the current arrangement appears rather constricting to you, accessible only to 12-year-old supermodels, then it's worth remembering that the wicket was originally composed of two stumps only and was rather wider than it was tall).

This etymology presumably also explains the verbal paradox of the wicket-keeper, a player whose task is not to "keep" the wicket at all, but to take any opportunity he can to flatten it.

If metaphor dues provide the

original usage the subsequent transfer of the word to the stretch of grass or scuffed earth between the two batsmen is a good example of synecdoche - not a middle-order Sri-Lankan batsman, but the rhetorical figure of speech by which a part can be used to stand for a whole (counting cattle by "heads" is another common example).

Purists currently prefer "pitch", though they should bear in mind that the transferred sense is at least 130 years old. And, if their objection is to the use of synecdoche itself, they need to remember that they are in no better position themselves - pitch, after all, has taken its name from a single element of the game, the bounce of the ball along that particular stretch of ground.

It's too late anyway, because the word "wicket" has escaped. Even if cavers have made "a sticky wicket" a thing of the past in cricket it has a lively existence beyond the boundaries, as Lady Olga Maitland found out while batting for Britain on the sun-loungers of Malta.

Thomas Sutcliffe

4 the cricket page

Hidden Personality
She showed talent immediately, acquiring an impressive collection of age-group titles and becoming an English schools champion.

Bailey's patience rewarded

Success in a Lord's final would be a fitting reward for Northamptonshire's captain. He spoke to Adam Szreter

Barbados, 1990. Curtly Ambrose is steaming in to bowl for a rampant West Indies, while at the other end his Northamptonshire team-mate Rob Bailey settles at the crease. The ball is too good for Bailey and whistles through to the wicket keeper at lightning speed, perhaps hushing the batsman's thigh on the way. Jeffrey Dujon takes the ball safely and he and his slip fielders claim a catch. Viv Richards famously running fully 40 yards to demand a guilty verdict from the umpire, Lloyd Barker. Slowly he raises his finger and Bailey trudges back to the pavilion, having failed again to make an impression as an England batsman.

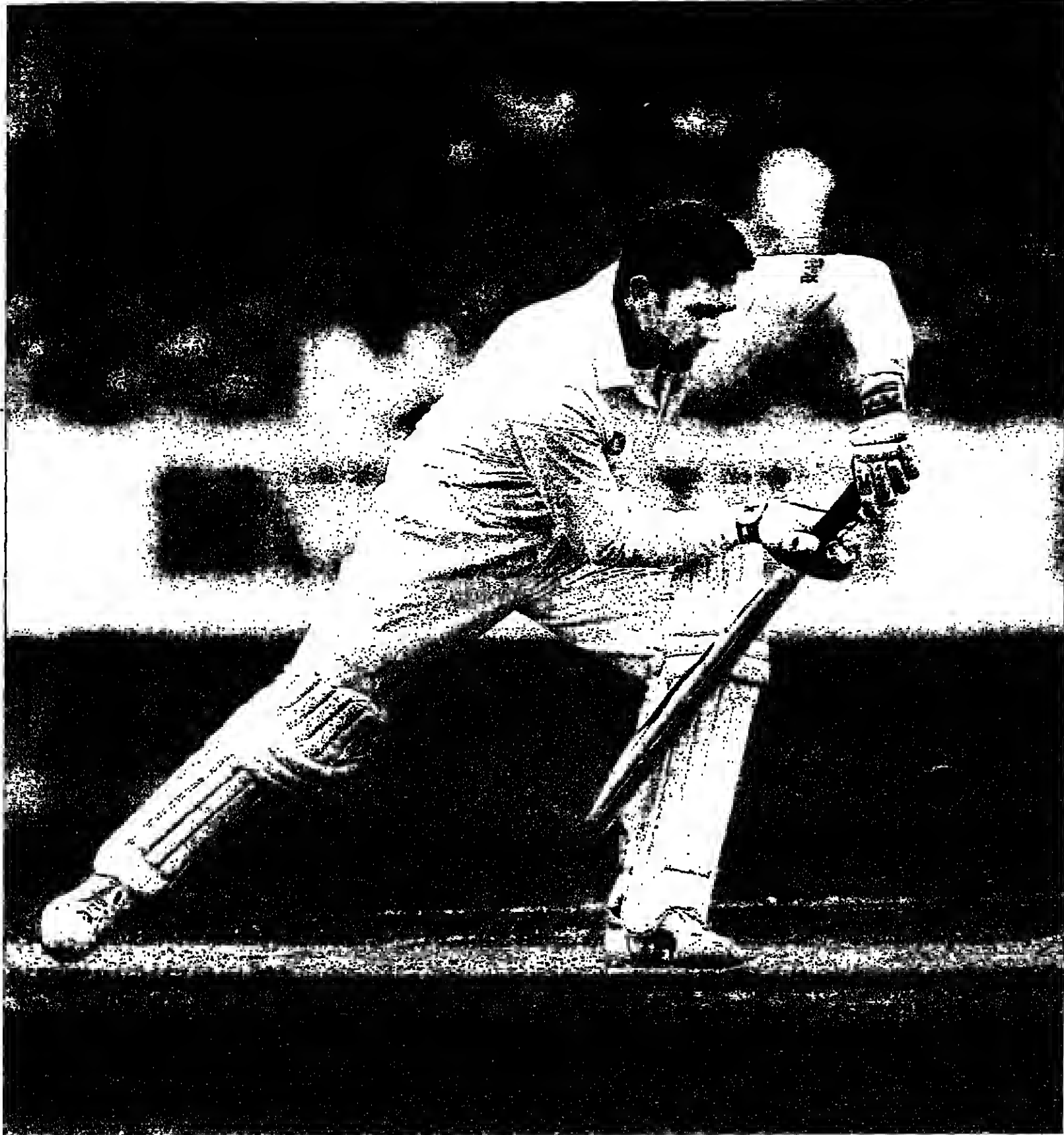
One way or another, it was not to be for Bailey and England. He played four Tests, all against the West Indies, and did not manage a fifty. He was only 26 at the time but he has not been asked back. It was a sad end to a traumatic period in his life, after he had turned down a large amount of money to go to South Africa with Mike Gatting's rebels in the hope of further honours for England. His father, a popular Staffordshire policeman, was dying of cancer while Bailey was attempting to make the most important decision of his career.

But although his loyalty to England went unrewarded, his loyalty to Northamptonshire was soon to start paying dividends. The club he joined as a 16-year-old after progressing through the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire League appointed him vice-captain in 1991 and, despite offers of captaincy from other counties, Bailey was content to bide his time. This winter it was all change at Wantage Road.

Allan Lamb relinquished the captaincy after six seasons and, in the face of competition from one or two of the other senior players, Bailey was promoted. In addition to his appointment, John Emburey was drafted in from Middlesex as player-coach. Neil Foster, the former Essex and England fast bowler, was put in charge of youth development, and Ambrose returned for his final season with the county, to replace Anil Kumble as overseas player.

On Saturday Bailey has the chance to put a trophy in the cabinet in his first season as captain and, despite their disappointing form in the Championship, victory over Lancashire at Lord's in the Benson and Hedges Cup will undoubtedly mean a successful start for this most popular of cricketers. First, though, Northamptonshire have to travel to Lancashire's headquarters for a NatWest Trophy second-round tie today.

"Ideally, we wouldn't have wanted to play them three days before the NatWest game."



Victory for Northamptonshire in the Benson and Hedges on Saturday will crown Rob Bailey's first season as captain Photograph: Robert Hallam

Bailey admitted, before going on to assess the qualities of the cup holders. "They're a bit like ourselves, they had down the order as they showed against Yorkshire [in the semi-final] when Warren Hegg scored 80 off 60 balls coming in at number eight. This season they haven't got a Wasim Akram, someone you think, 'we've got to see him off, he's a big danger', but we respect them all as individuals."

The Northamptonshire side that went so long unbeaten in one-day cricket this season virtually picks itself for the final, with Mal Loye now re-established as a batsman following Lamb's enforced retirement owing to his controversial forthcoming autobiography. The loss of Lamb as a player, and

adviser in the field, was a blow to Bailey but one that he has quickly come to terms with. "Once we realised he wasn't going to be playing we just had to get on with it. Lambie's one of

"I'm reasonably happy with the way things have gone, but at the moment we've won nothing"

if not the best batsman who's ever played for Northampton. He's a very unselfish batsman, he averages 50 or 60 but it could have been an awful lot more had he been more selfish. He was a very entertaining batsman and a great loss to the side.

But you have to move on from those things and it's given one of the younger lads a chance. That's the future of the club and we have to move forward.

"Obviously, getting some-

one like John Emburey has been a major bonus, but it's been difficult on the bowling side. Anil Kumble, who didn't miss a game last season and took 105 wickets in the Championship, takes some replacing. So far, the wickets haven't

suited our spinners. We're still waiting for the dry spell to come, to get some dry wickets, and hopefully John's going to pick up some wickets for us as the season goes on."

As for his own contribution as captain, Bailey is cautiously optimistic. "It's something I've wanted to do for quite a while. I've always had my sights set on it and I was pleased to get a chance to do it. I'm reasonably happy with the way things have gone, but at the moment we've won nothing this season; that's why this week is such a massive one for us. If we win on Saturday we've got a trophy and that gives the lads heart to go back to Championship cricket and rescue something from that."

Bailey admits that Emburey's

coaching of the county's younger spinners and his experience on the field has been useful, but if Northamptonshire look to any individual for inspiration it is Ambrose. "It's great when he's running in with his knees up round his chest. It's a lovely sight," says his captain. Barbados, it seems, is ancient history. "It's all part of the game," Bailey said. "It's interesting because at the time Curtly didn't actually appeal. But a few years ago when I mentioned it to him he just said, 'some you win some you lose', and that summed it up." Somehow, as Bailey stares into the distance reflecting on his misfortune, you get the feeling that defeat on Saturday would not be treated with quite the same equanimity.

Why a draw is often the sign of real cricket

Something out of the ordinary happened yesterday: the England cricket team won a series. It's the second time in 13 attempts since India were last here. There ought to be jubilation throughout the land, with a hit record to follow ("It's coming home, it's coming home, it's coming home..."). But how do we feel this morning? As flat as a Trent Bridge track.



TIM DE LISLE

England 1, India 0, is only one of several ways in which the result can be expressed. Cricket 0, Football 3 is another. A third would be Groundsmen and Umpires 3, Players 0.

None of the pitches was up to standard. The first was a three-day pitch, which only lasted beyond Saturday night through the genius of Sachin Tendulkar. Lord's was a seven-day pitch, and then Nottinghamshire's new groundsmen, Frank Darling, went one better although, to be fair, a result might have been just about possible if both sides had held their catches. If KT Francis had been willing to give more than one LBW, and if the otherwise excellent Jaggal Srinath had pitched the ball up enough to catch the edge. It is no coincidence that he, like Mike Hendrick, has never translated his control and movement into a single Test-match five-for.

Nonetheless, what counts is what actually happened. The Lord's Test died on the second day, when Jack Russell and Chris Lewis, enterprising at other times, were jointly becalmed. Just because it flickered back to life for an hour on the last day doesn't make it a decent contest.

This match has been even worse. Neither came close to reaching the fourth innings. Both, in the immortal words of David Bowie, were a sad-denying bore.

England have now drawn eight of their last 10 Tests. This is a slightly bogus statistic, because they did not draw any of the previous six. But it's not a trend you would want to see continued. Of the three Tests against Pakistan, the first is at Lord's, only a month after the last one, and another is at the Oval, where last year's pitch was a raging turn-off (England 454 and 223 for four; West Indies 692-8dec). Headingley alone promises a result.

England's winter tour is to be spent half in New Zealand, where the pitches are slow and low, and half in Zimbabwe, where they are slower and lower.

England is the only country where Test-match attendances are in good health. At this rate, they won't be for much longer. Crowds like to see wickets. Low-scoring matches are always gripping; high-scoring ones are often dull.

For the purist, a draw is often a sign of real cricket. Certainly the ability to fight for a draw is an important

points for a draw. The upshot is that there have already been 31 draws this summer, compared to 29 in the whole of last season. Whether this is an improvement is another matter. It doesn't seem quite the way to get the crowds flocking to Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, or Grace Road, Leicester.

The International Cricket Council is now meeting at Lord's to elect a new chairman, providing it can first agree on the rules of election. The favourite, the Indian Jagmohan Dalmiya, has revealed himself in the past few days as a reformer and a visionary. This should guarantee that he doesn't get the job: nothing frightens cricket administrators so much as a bit of vision. But his ideas are worth discussing.

Dalmiya wants to make cricket a truly global sport, and thinks this won't happen if so many Tests continue to be drawn. So he wants to find a way of cutting out draws. He mentions having an over limit, or time limit, on the first innings - say 120 overs.

This is the wrong means to the right end. Now that one-day cricket dominates the international scene, the definition of Test cricket is the form of the game in which overs are not limited. The two games complement each other very well. The last thing they need is to become more alike - except in one respect: there ought to be more results in Tests.

There are two better ways for Mr Dalmiya to achieve his aim. First, groundsmen could be required to report not to the home side but to the referee, whose instructions would be to prepare a pitch with some life in it. The danger would be that the whole world would go the way of Edgbaston, and too many fingers would get broken; but that problem could be solved by making it impossible to be caught off the glove, which in turn would encourage the players to wear thicker padding on their fingers.

If that sounds too complicated, try this. When a Test ends in a draw, the referee will have the power to award half a victory to the side that came closer to winning. At Lord's it would clearly have been India.

At Trent Bridge - well, that's a tough one, but difficult decisions are what refereeing is all about, and as things stand cricket's refs have an easy life. The change would ensure that there was something to play for right up to 6pm on Monday (or Tuesday). It works in boxing, and it couldn't have made a series like this one any worse.

Tim de Lisle is editor of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*.

Psychology to the fore in final dress rehearsal

Under normal circumstances, the Northamptonshire and Lancashire players preparing for today's second-round NatWest Trophy tie would be told to put aside all thoughts of their meeting at Lord's on Saturday. There is no point in such advice this year, however, as the rivals for the Benson and Hedges Cup must stage a full dress rehearsal in the 60-over competition at Old Trafford today. Whether this is good for either camp is debatable. Strengths, weaknesses and tactical possibilities will be fresh in the minds of the players but a one-sided match today would certainly have a hearing in psychological terms.

Not that there seems much prospect of that, however. Northamptonshire have the look of an impressively-equipped one-day side under Rob Bailey's captaincy, blending the maturing talents of Richard Montgomerie, Russell Warren and David Capel, Kevin Curran and now John Emburey, which gives them a decent hand in any game of this type, without even taking into account the potential for devastation Curtly Ambrose brings to the contest.

But they will confront a Lancashire team which, for all their under-achievement in the Championship, can never be underestimated in limited-overs cricket, to which a record of six Lord's finals in seven seasons bears testimony. This will be their sixth B&H final, five of them since 1990, and they will be seeking to lift the trophy for the fourth time.

Batting virtually all the way down, and with six or seven bowling options, they possess any number of match-winners, from Michael Atherton at the top to Peter Martin at the bottom, as well as brilliant one-day specialists such as Neil Fairbrother and Warren Hegg.

But just as importantly they seem blessed with an unquenchable spirit, a self-belief so deep that defeat is never accepted until all hope has gone, as Yorkshire will readily confirm after this year's semi-final, when Lancashire were on the ropes at David Capel, Kevin Curran and now John Emburey, which gives them a decent hand in any game of this type, without even taking into account the potential for devastation Curtly Ambrose brings to the contest.

So much for the B&H. In the

THE WEEK AHEAD

NatWest, Northamptonshire, losing finalists last year, at least have the knowledge that they defeated Lancashire by eight wickets to win at Lord's in 1992 and the belief that they would have done likewise in 1990 had they won the toss on a dewy morning, during which Phil DeFreitas blew away five of their upper order in a match effectively decided before lunch.

Roh Bailey's squad includes opener Alan Fordham, who celebrated his recall to the first team with a century against the Pakistanis, and off-spinner Jeremy Snape.

The business at Old Trafford

apart, the ties with most appeal are at Edgbaston, where the holders, deprived of Dermot Reeve, continue their defence against Surrey, at Grace Road, where ebullient Leicestershire take on improving Sussex, at Derby, where Championship leaders Kent will have their work out to overcome a team fired with renewed competitiveness under the captaincy of Dean Jones, and at Headingley, where Yorkshire, strong contenders for silverware this summer, meet Sunday League leaders Middlesex.

The impact of Reeve's absence, confirmed for the rest of the season, is likely to be felt particularly in matches such as today's, in which his ability to turn a contest with bat or ball, not to mention innovative captaincy, has often been the difference between defeat and

unlikely victory. At least Tim Munton will return, recovered from the back problem that thwarted his comeback from a wrist injury, although there are doubts over Dominic Ostler. Chris Lewis and Alec Stewart return from England duty for Surrey but opener Darren Bicknell faces a fitness test against damaging a hand in the field against Middlesex.

Fresh from successive innings victories over Yorkshire and Essex in the Championship, Leicestershire have the ability to sweep aside Sussex, especially

if David Mills continues in the form which enabled him to take 10 wickets in the match and complete a century against Essex, the first player for eight years to achieve this double.

Kent's worry at Derby is that injury-plagued Dean Headley, who limped out of the Championship match against Durham with an ankle injury, will be absent but Yorkshire are at full strength for the visit of Essex, with prolific Australian batsman Michael Bevan refreshed by a week's holiday in Spain.

Jon Culley

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Life in the fast lane, with no place as home

Pat Butcher talks to Frankie Fredericks, the quiet ambassador who has grown up with his native Namibia, about his emergence as a serious contender for the Olympic sprint double in Atlanta

It is not easy to catch up with Frankie Fredericks, as his opponents are learning with mounting alarm. The closer it gets to the Olympics, the faster the Namibian is running. One hundred metres in 9.87sec in a frigid Helsinki two weeks ago broke his personal best by almost a tenth of a second, a giant leap in sprinting terms. Then came a 9.86, the second fastest ever, in Lausanne a week ago. What is more, that was into a headwind, thus intrinsically faster than Leroy Burrell's 9.85 world record at the same venue two years ago.

To cap it all, he outpaced Michael Johnson in a 200 metres in a rainy Oslo last Friday evening, clocking 19.82sec to Johnson's 19.85 and denting the American's seeming invincibility with a first defeat at the distance in two years, since the Rome Grand Prix in 1994 when Johnson lost to... Frankie Fredericks.

Fredericks did look to have got a "flier" in Oslo last week - which happens when a sprinter anticipates the starting gun so well that he is out of the blocks faster than the echo and steals a march on his opponents, rather than getting a false start.

But it will have given Johnson plenty to think about in his tentative run-up to that never achieved Olympic 200 and 400 double.

It has also given everyone else the opportunity to consider that Fredericks is in line for his own Olympic double, the 100 and 200 metres. So low-key is Fredericks that we tend to forget that he has already won two Olympic silvers at those events, in Barcelona 1992.

Catching up with Fredericks in the more prosaic sense of getting him to sit down and chat about all this for a while is equally difficult. Fredericks is a very private person, staying in the background at meetings, speaking quietly, fobbing off folks with "I let my feet do the talking for me," which is also the closest he gets to cliché.

He was spotted at the British Olympic trials in Birmingham, of all places. Not so unusual, on second thoughts, given that he has been training with Britain's Olympic sprint champion, Linford Christie, for the

last six months. Fredericks was in Birmingham to lend support. And once cornered he was sweetness itself, and complimentary to a fault.

"When you train with someone like Linford, you are bound to get better. Working with him, you realise just what hard work is all about. I think it's beneficial for both of us. You need people at your level to train with. It's working out pretty well for me, and I hope it's working out for him."

It is easy to see why Namibia's first and best-known international personality, in sport or any other field, is also the country's best ambassador. Fredericks and Namibia grew up together, so to speak. The country has been independent of the old South Africa only since 1990, which just happens to be the year that Fredericks emerged on to the world stage as a top-class sprinter.

"I realised that by doing well I could also help my country become better known around the world.

Hidden Personality

All set for a glittering career, then? Seemingly but everything changed for her at 13, quite possibly after a poster on a high street window caught her eye.

Frankie Fredericks: A track record 1992-96

Year	Event	Time	Location	Notes
1992	100m	10.22	Barcelona	World best
1992	200m	19.85	Barcelona	World best
1993	100m	10.13	Helsinki	World best
1993	200m	19.86	Helsinki	World best
1994	100m	10.04	Lausanne	World best
1994	200m	19.82	Lausanne	World best
1995	100m	10.04	Oslo	World best
1995	200m	19.82	Oslo	World best
1996	100m	9.87	Helsinki	World best
1996	200m	19.82	Helsinki	World best
1996	100m	9.86	Lausanne	World best
1996	200m	19.82	Lausanne	World best
1996	100m	9.86	Oslo	World best
1996	200m	19.82	Oslo	World best

But it has left him with an enduring love for the game that had him scurrying for the TV set whenever Euro 96 was mentioned. For the record, he named Germany as the winners before the end of the first round. That was not too difficult, and, by the same token, people have been handing Michael Johnson's name around as the "certain" winner of the 200 and 400 double after achieving it at the Gothenburg World Championships last year. I wondered if this almost perpetual publicity for Johnson annoyed Fredericks. "Not really," he said.

Every time Frankie Fredericks gets mentioned in the media, Namibia gets a mention too, which is great, he says. "I was fortunate that when they started to discuss independence for Namibia I was in my last year at college. So the transition from student to athlete was immediate, and I could also compete in the Olympic Games straightaway."

He had been South African 100 metres champion in 1987, the year he was sent by Rossing Uranium, part of the giant RTZ mining conglomerate,

on a computer science scholarship to Brigham Young University in the United States. He was able to avoid the South Africa sports boycott, because the US college system is "closed". The additional advantage of the next few years was the world-class competition he could get against the likes of fellow students such as Michael Johnson, Leroy Burrell, and Andre Cason.

"The only really top people I'd never run against were Linford and Carl [Lewis], simply because they weren't in the American college system. So when I went to the World Championships in Tokyo in 1991 I wasn't overawed, because I'd already run against most of those guys."

Fredericks had, in fact, become the first foreigner to win the NCAA (US colleges) sprint double. And in Tokyo in 1991, his first international experience, he was fifth in the 100, and won silver in the 200 metres. Extraordinarily, up to that point, Fredericks had concentrated on his studies, which must have made him even more of an outsider in a US college system not noted for the academic qualities of its sports scholars.



Fredericks wins gold in the men's 200 metres final at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Canada

Photograph: Tony Duffy / Allsport

ly, I'm not doing this sport to be famous, I look at it as an opportunity to put my country on the map, and I'm doing this sport because I can give my family back home a better living than I would have if I had to work. So I look at it a different way."

"As far as Michael is concerned, what he did last year was marvellous, it was great for the sport, like it will be if he does it this year. But nobody can predict an Olympic 1-2-3. That's why we have competition. Otherwise, the medals out now. The reality, we go to the Games is to decide who is the best."

The "family" back home is just his mother, Rylie, who, he says, it took him a long time to realise was "the most important person in my life. I was born in Katutura, a suburb of Windhoek. In the past in South Africa, they used to have black neighbourhoods, white neighbourhoods, and then coloured neigh-

bourhoods. We used to live in the black neighbourhood. I grew up there. At the time, I thought it was a normal life. I didn't know any better. I just thought this was how everybody grew up."

Now, leaving and looking at it, I realise that my mother worked really hard, but I didn't understand what she was going through. How hard she worked just to put food on the table. I really appreciate that now."

Fredericks took his mother to Barcelona in 1992, the first time she had been outside Namibia, and he now says he tries to bring her on tour as much as possible, "so we don't lose contact", since he only spends about two months of the year back at home. Talking about his mother seemed an appropriate opportunity to ask about a girl-friend. That drew just about the only broad smile of the afternoon, but all he would say was:

"Let's just say there is someone in my life."

He is still linked with Rossing Uranium, the company who paid for his studies and who now sponsor him. It suits him, he says, and it is difficult to imagine that Rossing do not feel they have mined one of their richest ever seams with Fredericks. And has that ore come to the surface at just the right time?

The Olympics always throws up the unexpected. Six months before Seoul, there was a superb 1500 metres in prospect, with the double champion Seb Coe against the world record holder Said Aouita, the world champion Abdi Bile, and the former world champion and record holder Steve Cram.

In the eventuality, only Cram ran, and he finished fourth, with Peter Rono taking the title and never winning a significant race again.

Until two weeks ago, and those

two blistering 100 metres races, despite his Barcelona silver, Fredericks admits that people considered him more a 200 metres man. Now, he has two of the three fastest times ever at 100 metres. And that has deepened his quandary, because after finishing fourth in the World Championships 100 metres then second in the 200 metres last year he felt that he overdid it.

"I haven't decided whether I'm going to run both yet. Definitely, I'm going to do the 200, but I'll wait until 48 hours before to decide. Last year I got twinges after running so many rounds because you have to run hard every round nowadays. I just want to give it my best. I hope I get a PB [personal best] out of it. I've really given a lot up this year training-wise. I feel good, I feel strong. At this stage of my life, I'm in the best shape I've ever been. I just want to stay healthy and win gold."

EURO 96 POSTSCRIPT

Victory via penalty shoot-out continues to provoke a heated response: two weeks after Germany claimed the championship, our postbag is bulging with alternative proposals for football's future

when such an obvious and positive solution exists?
ALEX DUNCAN
London N4

From Mr J B Price
Sir: Ken Jones is right to express concern about the role played by penalty shoot-outs in recent major competitions. When both semi-finals of the recent European championship had to be determined in this way it is fair to say that the entire credibility of the tournament was undermined. To promote a tournament designed to establish the football champions of Europe and then settle a series of crucial matches by a means other than playing football is

beyond rational justification. On this topic, how Brazil can possibly call themselves world champions when the final of the World Cup ended in a draw is more than I can understand.

Neither do I hold out much hope for the idea of counting corners to act as a tie-breaker. This suggestion fails to take into account the effect this would have on the way teams play. I dread to think of the kind of matches which will arise when teams realise that they can gain victory by winning a couple of corners early on and then playing possession football for the rest of the game. Furthermore, the sole objective of football is to score goals; any complication of this basic premise would stand the

risk of destroying this most appealing of spectator sports.

Perhaps the problem lies in the refusal to accept a draw as the valid result it undoubtedly is. The traditional solution of a replay is apparently denied, so why not look instead to the most effective method of determining a championship, namely a league system. For instance, in Euro 96 the four winners of the initial league would then form a further league, which would produce a winner by the established mechanism. This would produce a series of high-class matches and victory could be achieved only by the prowess of the game itself - not by some footling competition that rightly

belongs in the inane realms of *It's a Knock-Out*. If anyone would lament the loss of a showpiece finale, I would ask them to consider the last two World Cup finals, two of the worst matches played at international level. In any case, it is time for football to rethink the fundamentals of its most prestigious tournaments.
JOHN PRICE
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

From Mr M Mullard
Sir: I would like to add my opinion to the penalty shoot-out debate. At present the fear of losing is so great that the already dominant defences are ruling to an even greater extent in extra time than during the normal 90 minutes. I feel that the only way to ensure a result is to somehow break up these dominant defences.

As such, my suggestion is to remove the goalkeepers for the 30 minutes of extra time (not golden-goal rule). This will almost certainly produce goals, and therefore increase ex-

citement levels and hopefully ensure that penalties would be avoided. It would have the added advantage of breaking up defences who would have to place two or three "normal" players in goal and this, in turn, would allow remaining players the extra space needed to create chances. One would assume the more skilful team would have the advantage. It would also make defending an extra time lead almost impossible.

The game is being damaged by dominant defences. We want goals and the excitement that these bring. The above suggestion, would I feel, address the problems we face.
MARTIN MULLARD
Windsor, Berkshire

Letters should be marked "For publication" and contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

6 coming soon...british grand prix

Is Damon a great Briton?



Photograph: Mike Cooper/Allsport

Damon Hill has taken seven victories from the last 10 races and should gain the spoils in Sunday's British Grand Prix at Silverstone

If you were not a Nigel Mansell fan, the 1992 British Grand Prix at Silverstone stands as perhaps the most disagreeable motor race ever run in this country. It was not that the day was marked by tragedy, for there was no accident of consequence, but that the uglier face of contemporary sport showed itself for the first – and so far only – time in motor racing.

Mansell was on a roll that summer. Driving the Williams-Renault FW18B, the only car with computerised "active" suspension in the field, he had a car more manifestly superior to its rivals than had been seen since the years of Mercedes-Benz domination in the mid-Fifties. Arriving at Silverstone that weekend, Mansell had won six of eight grands prix to 1992, and was clearly on course for the world championship.

He was, emphatically, the people's champion, if not the paddock's and the bulk of the crowd was squarely behind him, almost daring him to lose. One of the very fastest drivers the sport has seen, Mansell invariably found something extra at home, and qualifying times confirmed that no one, not even Ayrton Senna, was going to threaten him.

In truth, it was a consummately boring race, and quite unlike Mansell's mesmerising wheel-to-wheel defeat of Nelson Piquet at Silverstone five years earlier, but, as is increasingly the way of it these days, the result mattered more than the event. As he stepped from his broken car, a few laps from the end, the great Senna was jeered, and when Mansell took the flag, hordes of spec-

Damon Hill has long had to live with claims that his success has been down to the superiority of his car. Nigel Roebuck believes the world championship leader now merits comparison with the best of British

tators spilled over the debris fences on to the track, wallowing in a glut of what some charitably called patriotism. It was only by luck that dozens of them were not mown down by following cars.

Mansell started first, and finished first, that day. At the other end of the grid was one Damon Hill, driving for a Brabham team then in its death throes. Hill ran at the back all afternoon, and finished 15th, four laps behind, stoic last, unnoticed.

One year on, his fortunes had picked up. By now Mansell, unable to agree terms for a renewal of his Williams contract, had flounced off to IndyCar racing in the United States, and Hill was the Brit on whom the fans' attention was focused. Alain Prost had replaced Mansell as the Williams-Renault team leader, and Hill had been picked to partner him. On the face of it, he was an illogical choice for the most sought after driver in racing, having run but a couple of grands prix for Brabham. As well as that, at 32, he was 10 years older than the typical Formula One rookie.

What he had, though, was considerable experience, not only of many years racing in the lesser formulae, but also of working with Williams, for, while racing for Brabham, he had also been employed by Frank Williams as test driver. "Here I was, run-

ning endless test miles in the best car," Hill said, "and having to race the worst one. Believe me, I knew what I was missing, and never more than that day at Silverstone. I could only dream of one day being in Mansell's position."

As a test driver, Hill impressed Patrick Head, the Williams engineering chief, and when Mansell's departure left a vacancy in the team for 1993, Head advocated his promotion to the race team, arguing his lap times were consistently on the pace, his technical feedback good. In terms of continuity, it also made sense, for Prost, the incoming team leader, had no experience of Williams.

Thus, a slightly disbelieving Hill was signed, and by the time of Silverstone was a potential race winner. After qualifying second to Prost, indeed, he led the majority of the race, before bailing with engine failure 13 laps from the finish. A year later, he won, after a period of upheaval and trauma for Williams. Prost had retired, and Senna, who replaced him for 1994, was killed at Imola, only his third race for the team. By July, the residues of shock still lay over the whole of Formula 1, and at the core of the drama was Hill, whose team-mate had been lost, whose Williams leadership he had been obliged, after only 20 grands prix, to take up.

The scenes were emotional when he won at Silverstone, but quite different from those after Mansell's triumph. There was less frenzy by far, which was fitting for a man very different from his predecessor at Williams. Mansell's best relationship in motor racing was always with the crowd, which he unashamedly courted, but Hill is quieter, more controlled, more English, perhaps.

There is an extrovert side to his personality – putting a guitar in his hands is like potting Clark Kent in a 'phooe box, as he demonstrated at the post-race party – but pragmatic is his usual way, and his team likes this about him. Mansell, wherever he was, had fresh problems flown in daily, which became wearisome over time, as Frank Williams acknowledged. "A great driver," he said, "but a hard man to like."

For Hill, by contrast, the team's affection is obvious, but there lurks an impression, even now, that his talents at the wheel are underrated, this perhaps a legacy of the manner of his arrival in the team. Many a rival has pointed out, sometimes churlishly, that virtually throughout his grand prix career Hill has had the best car at his disposal, but in 1995 few could suggest that it has flattered him. This season his driving, his whole approach, has reached a new level.

"I've been astonished," Bernie Ecclestone, Formula One's leading power broker, said, "at the way Damon has raised his game. He doesn't have the natural talent of Michael Schumacher, but then neither does anyone else. What he's done is grow into a truly mature grand prix driver, and it's irrelevant that he's got the best car – the successful drivers have always had bloody good cars. You can't win all those races with bad cars, whoever you are."

All those races, indeed. From 60 grand prix starts, Hill has 19 victories, a strike rate which betters all in history save those of Juan Manuel Fangio and Jim Clark.

Peter Collins, James Hunt and Mansell, together with all-time great drivers like Stirling Moss, Clark and Jackie Stewart, at some point won their home grand prix in the course of distinguished careers, but Hill's late father, Graham, despite taking two world championships, as well as victories in the Le Mans 24 Hours and the Indianapolis 500, somehow never captured the race he most wanted. "I feel," Hill said, when he won in 1994, "that this has filled a little hole in the family record."

Now, with seven victories from the last 10 races, he goes to Silverstone once more, and for the first time as heavy favourite, not least because Schumacher, unequivocally the best driver of the moment, is this season in a Ferrari neither rival competitive with the Williams-Renault, nor conspicuously reliable. This weekend the British Grand Prix crowd positively expects a Hill victory, and this, all things being equal, he should deliver. A riot, however, is not anticipated.

DAVID BRADBURY
Born 1950-05-01
1974-75
World Champion
Number of races 10
Pole positions 1
Fastest laps 1
Wins 1
Strike rate 10%

JACKIE STEWART
Born 1939-03-06
1963-64
World Champion
Number of races 10
Pole positions 1
Fastest laps 1
Wins 1
Strike rate 10%

ALAIN PROST
Born 1955-02-24
1985-86
World Champion
Number of races 10
Pole positions 1
Fastest laps 1
Wins 1
Strike rate 10%

DAVID BRADBURY
Born 1950-05-01
1974-75
World Champion
Number of races 10
Pole positions 1
Fastest laps 1
Wins 1
Strike rate 10%

DAVID BRADBURY
Born 1950-05-01
1974-75
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Pole positions 1
Fastest laps 1
Wins 1
Strike rate 10%

DAVID BRADBURY
Born 1950-05-01
1974-75
World Champion
Number of races 10
Pole positions 1
Fastest laps 1
Wins 1
Strike rate 10%

On bumpy tracks you see your legs wobbling as if you've got St Vitus' Dance. Your eyes vibrate so much you can't focus

Johnny Herbert, winner of last year's British Grand Prix, talks about the extreme physical demands that Formula One drivers have to contend with



Driving in a Grand Prix is like sitting inside a 200mph tubular vibration machine for an hour and a half, while simultaneously working with weights in a gym.

The cockpit is your office and to survive, mentally as well as physically, you obviously need to be completely comfortable. My Sauber-Ford has a specially tailored seat made by Pro Seat. They use a process of bagging polystyrene beads and then gently withdrawing the vacuum from the bag once I'm sitting comfortably on it. This creates a template for my race seat. You get thrown around more than a cow-boy in a rodeo, laterally and fore and aft, so you've got to have support. You're strapped in, tightly, of course, but even then you move

around a lot, so while your shoulders and hips might stay in place, you need to protect your torso and thighs. On really bumpy tracks you can look down and see your legs wobbling as if you've developed St Vitus' Dance. Your bum is on the seat and your feet are on the pedals, but the bits in between seem to get a spaghetti-like life of their own!

It's also important to sit properly. Sit too high and you interfere with airflow into the engine, while if the windscreen is too low your head gets buffeted so much that you cannot see where you are going. Your eyes can vibrate so much in their sockets that you cannot focus. You have to concentrate so hard just to see where you're going that you get drained physically.



Another day at the office: Johnny Herbert in his Sauber-Ford

Photograph: Emipex

If you get your cockpit ergonomics right, you will not have a problem with breathing, or with cramp or fatigue. Things like seat shape and throttle position really are extremely important.

Downforce is a wonderful thing, but it has its price. The tyres generate a lot of grip and, with around

a tonne of downforce in the very high G corners, everything gets very loaded up. That makes the steering effort very, very heavy.

You do not quite get to the point where you can't turn the wheel, but it certainly feels like it sometimes, especially at circuits like Suzuka. That's what you train for in the gym.

You are over 1G most of the time, but you can get as high as 3.5 or 4G under braking, and almost that high in the very fastest corners, like the first part of Becketts at Silverstone. That means you weigh four times your normal weight, and that's why it's so important to get muscular stamina. You can do a lot

in the gym, but the only real training for this is driving itself. It's the only way to fine-tune your muscles, because G forces tend to expose any weak points you didn't exercise in the gym.

A Formula One car cockpit is also like a Turkish bath, so imagine sitting in one of them for an hour and a half. The temperature can get over 100°F. You feel some heat from the side-mounted water radiators, plus you've got your three-layer diving suit and another layer of flameproof undersuits. The screen is designed to flick air over your head and into the engine's airbox, so precious little heat actually gets sucked out of the cockpit itself.

Your body is always being banged about one way or another, either laterally or fore and aft, or a combination of these. You never stop moving around, and you are always being hammered.

A footballer can sprint down the wing and make a cross, then trot back. He has time to rest and recover. We do not. In the car it's just 90% and there's a much higher concentration. You are also making a

much higher physical output. During a Grand Prix it's like going into a gym and for two hours just going through one machine to another without a break. Non-stop. That's the great for getting muscles toned, but then the shocks come later, the pain and bangs.

And, of course, life odd accidents. Those where your body twists and snaps are the worst, like my old friend, the team-mate Mika Hakkinen, in Adelaide last year. That was a big hammering.

The only way you would ever feel like in your head and one of the best ideas in your head is to be driving a Formula One car. You would be it if you knew it. You would be it if you knew it. You would be it if you knew it.

we brake really hard. But I'm not you'd rather not go to the lengths.

Mentally you know you're doing something damn difficult when you get out of the car after a race when you win, as I discovered the first time at the British Grand Prix at Silverstone last year. Of the greatest highs in the adrenaline and euphoria, you save away all the negative

Hidden Personality
Serving Queen and country? Absolutely. It was the army life for her, putting others through their paces as a PT instructor.

coming soon...british grand prix 7



King of the road: Ken Tyrrell says "I haven't missed a race in 29 years and I don't intend to start now"

The man who spans the generations

It was billed as the most open championship for years. Instead it is a closed shop, Damon Hill helping himself to everything. Even qualifying has become a diluted offering. Motor racing's "premier show" heads for the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on Sunday, condemned as contemptuous, over-priced and boring. All of which makes the sport's senior citizen smile the smile of a man who has heard it all before.

Derick Allsop finds that Formula One racing's elder statesman, Ken Tyrrell, has lost none of his drive

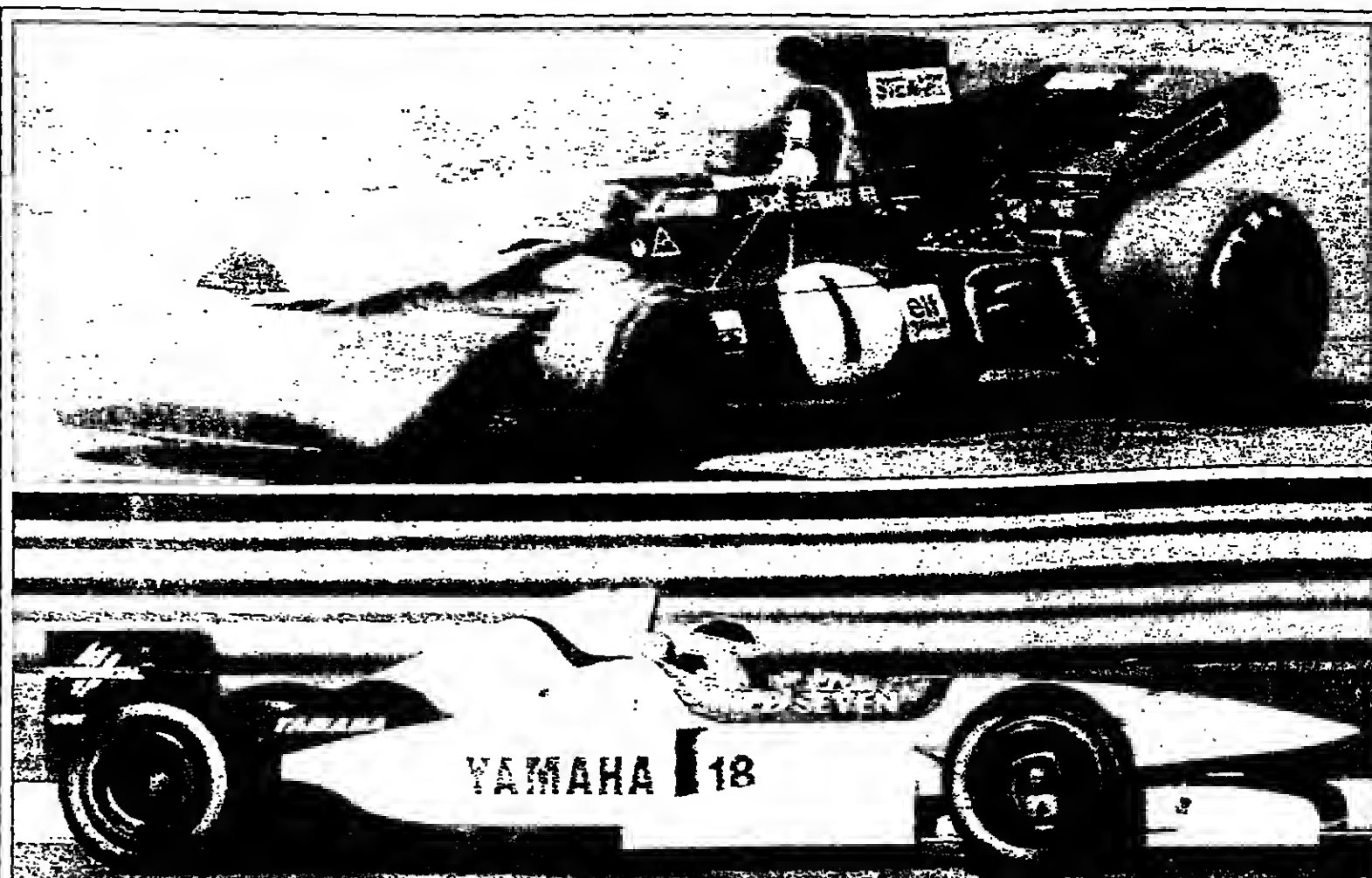
"I don't think it makes any difference at all to the people who come through the gates. No one's out there pussyfooting. Everyone's trying to be quick all the time. Why shouldn't they be? It's just as exciting watching Schumacher going round there on a Friday as it is on Saturday afternoons."

Ken Tyrrell was running a Formula One team before Michael Schumacher was born. He may not have won races, let alone championships, of late but his opinion is reckoned to be a barometer of sound judgement and plain common sense. He talks in plain and unambiguous language too. For instance: "Friday is not a bore. As far as we, as a team, are concerned, it means we have more time to try things out and we are happy for it to be the way it is."

gest a better way of doing it. There have never been enough good drivers. Nothing has changed. You always get one guy who dominates. If you look at the last 10, 20 years, the world championship has almost always been won by the best driver that year.

"There are exceptions and there's going to be one this year. All Britain wants Damon to win. If Schumacher was in a Williams, he'd murder everybody. I think it's wonderful he's got the Ferrari and taken a big pot of money. After two years he'll get fed up with that and somebody will be able to get him back. He won't like not being world champion."

"Why aren't Benetton doing better this year? Perhaps they were actually like that last year, but they had Schumacher. Maybe there's a bigger gap now between the best and the rest, but there has always been one who outshines the others, and if



Twenty-five years of dynamite behind the steering wheel

Few racing machines could be more different than the Tyrrell in which Jackie Stewart dominated the 1971 British GP at Silverstone (top) and Ken Tyrrell's cars that race there this weekend, such as the 003 that won the title in the last 25 years.

Stewart had 450bhp at his disposal in the Tyrrell 003, which had an alumin-

um monocoque chassis with sides that bulged to accommodate its hefty fuel load. The 024 car (above) that Mika Salo will drive this weekend is five times stronger than the 003 thanks to the slimline carbon-fibre chassis, which locates all the fuel in a single tank behind the driver. Its Yamaha V10 engine produces 675bhp and runs 6,000rpm faster

than Stewart's Ford Cosworth V8. The 003's round snub nose has given way to a high snout with an under-slung wing, while the side pods (which house the radiators), the rear wing and the special rear-end diffuser help the 024 to generate at least 500 per cent more aerodynamic downforce than the 003 and three times its cornering force.

Statistics behind the speed

	Tyrrell 003 (1971)	Tyrrell 024 (1996)
Engine capacity	3,000cc	3,000cc
Revs	10,000rpm	16,000rpm
Power	450bhp	675bhp
Top speed	190mph	200mph
Gearbox	5-speed	6-speed
Weight	566kg	550kg
Chassis	sheet aluminium	carbon fibre
Fuel capacity	186 litres	115 litres
Brakes	Steel discs	Carbon fibre discs

he's in the right car, he's going to win the championship. McLaren have won many championships and 99 per cent of the grands prix they've won have been when they've had the best driver."

Tyrrell regularly won races in their early years and, with Jackie Stewart, the drivers' title in 1969, 1971 and 1973. More recently they have had to accept a supporting role, but that has failed to dull the enthusiasm of their 72-year-old boss. Tyrrell is never likely to bore his charges

by lamenting the passing of "the good old days". He says: "Look at the equipment we are using now, look at the circuits we are going to. You have to have been going to circuits 29 bloody years ago to appreciate what we have now. When it rained they were mud heaps and there was no pit cover. In South Africa we towed the cars 15 miles from Johannesburg to the track every morning, and towed the bloody things 15 miles back every night."

"That's how grand prix racing was. It's changed. It's brought us into the modern world and the person who is responsible for that is Bernie Ecclestone. Formula One is just as appealing for me as ever it was. I haven't missed a race in 29 years and I don't intend to start now. Most people aren't as fortunate as me. I am part of a team that competes in Formula One. It's an exciting life. I do a lot of travelling. I like competition and I can't understand anyone who's in my job and wants to give it up."

Some might consider having to endure 13 years without a win reason enough to pick up that bus pass. On the contrary. "Not winning is the one thing I dislike intensely," he said. "Williams are at the top because they deserve to be. It's there for the taking and it's there for everybody. We have to get better in every department and will continue to. That drives me on. I want our drivers on the rostrum and I want one in the middle of the rostrum."

While Ukyo Katayama remains one of the more erratic drivers in Formula One, Tyrrell-Yamaha's other representative, Mika Salo, continues to underscore his credentials as one of the more gifted. Tyrrell, however, cannot hide his thrill at having had the services of the best driver in the world, albeit fleetingly. He explained: "I was walking into the circuit in Brazil and Schumacher offered me a lift in his Mercedes. He told me: 'I always wanted to drive for you.' I'd settle for that on a more permanent basis."

King happy to take a leading part into unknown territory

Mary King is waiting, with typical equanimity, to hear whether she will be riding King William in the team or individual contest of the Olympic three-day event. The nonsense of having separate competitions (it is hoped for the one and only time) means that she cannot compete in both simultaneously, as has always happened in the past.

"I will be happy with whatever the selectors decide," King said on the eve of her departure for Atlanta last week. "Everyone dreams of being the individual champion, but if they were to choose me for the individual, I would possibly be very disappointed not to be part of the team."

ATLANTA COUNTDOWN

No 4 MARY KING

It takes a generous person to go first for the team, at a time when there is little, if any, feedback on how the course is riding. King's kindness is apparent in her manner; she is unfailingly courteous to journalists and autograph hunters as well as fellow competitors.

King, William normally boosts team confidence when going first, by jumping a wonderful cross-country round. The horse was, however, ominously tired over the last part of the course at the World Games in 1994. It transpired that he was suffering from dehydration and, with Atlanta in mind, a new regime of horse management was instigated.

travelling and again during the cross-country - oddly enough, regaining it much quicker after the exertion of the competition than the inactivity of the long journey.

King is confident that the horses' welfare is in capable hands. She is also hopeful that King William's habit of clobbering show jumping fences - he lowered five of them at the 1992 Olympics - is a thing of the past. During team training last month, King and Ian Stark went for a session with Lars Soderholm, who devised various confidence-boosting exercises for both of them.

"It's lovely to have Scotty back on the squad," King said of Stark, who was one of her team-mates at the last Olympics. That was an unhappy occasion for the Scot, whose Murphy himself failed the final horse inspection and so dropped the team from second to fifth place. He went home early, but King stayed on and had a whale of a time in the Olympic Village.



King: In confident mood

well as the rider her surname, and they have a daughter, Emily. After winning team gold and individual bronze medals in the European Open last year, King had astonished her team-mates by announcing that she was five months pregnant.

Emily was born in January and leaving her behind for five weeks - the infant remains in the care of Gill Thomas. Mary's mother - has been the most painful part of King's Olympic venture. Since the birth, there have been discussions as to whether or not King has the same determination and ability to see a stride. She sees that nothing has changed. "I don't feel in the least bit different since having a baby," she said. "It hasn't affected my riding at all."

Individuals may have to put their team first

SPORT-BY-SPORT GUIDE

No 3: EQUESTRIANISM

pected to be in the team event, which starts on 21 July, Leslie Law and Ian Stark (the best two Britons at Badminton) would have a chance of medals in the individual event, which begins two days later, but they could be chosen for the team. The selectors' awkward decision may, in the end, depend on how well the horses have acclimatised to the heat and humidity of Atlanta.

Other strong squads will represent Australia (whose Matt Ryan won team and individual gold medals in 1992) and the United States (whose riders and horses are more used to the climate and could have a big advantage). In dressage, Germany and the Netherlands are bound to

have the two best places on the podium after the team contest on 27 and 28 July. The United States will probably finish third, even though British riders insist they are in with a chance of bronze medals.

Have a heart...

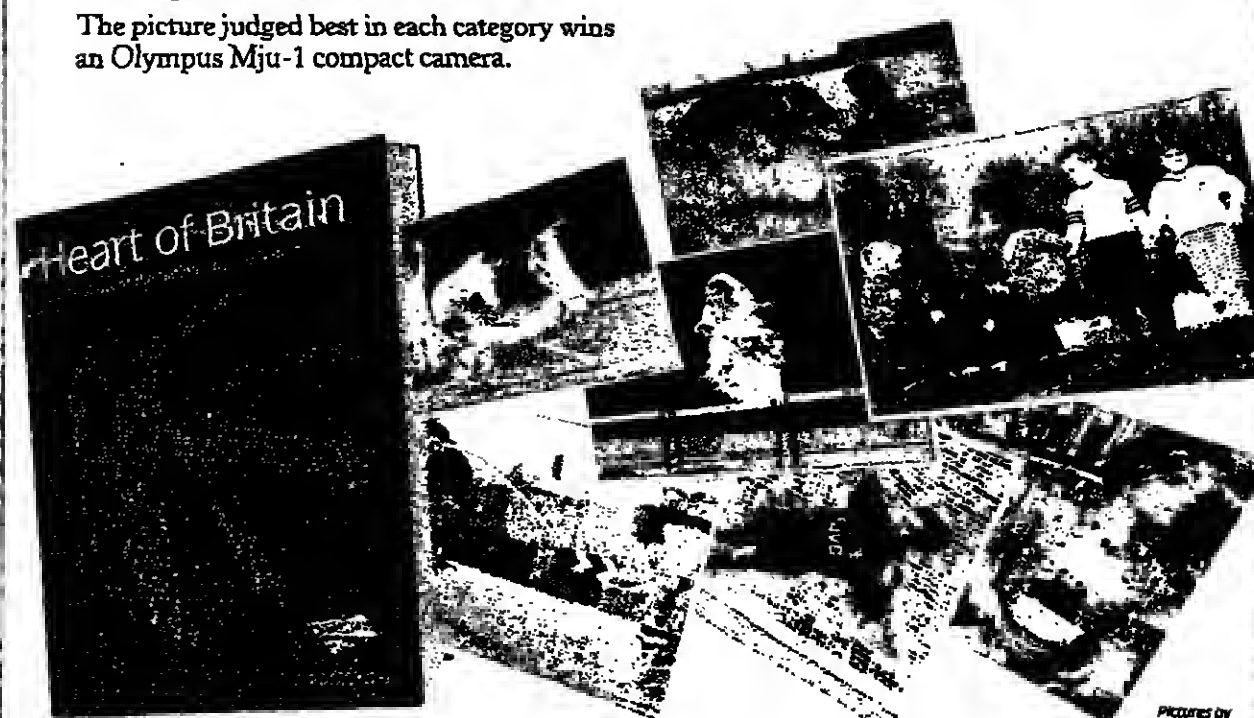
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The picture judged best in each category wins an Olympus Mju-1 compact camera.

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8

THE INDEPENDENT

F1 RACING

PLAY FORMULA 1
DREAM TEAMGRAND PRIX
'96 RACE
SCHEDULE

British GP
July 14

German GP
July 28

Hungarian GP
August 11

Belgian GP
August 25

Italian GP
September 8

Portuguese GP
September 22

Japanese GP
October 13

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Plus prizes to be won with every grand prix

Formula 1 Dream Team is just like Fantasy Football: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the coming season.

Even though the grand prix season has started, it is not too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthusiasts and you could win our overall 1996 champion's prize, a drive in a Formula One car plus additional prizes for each race.



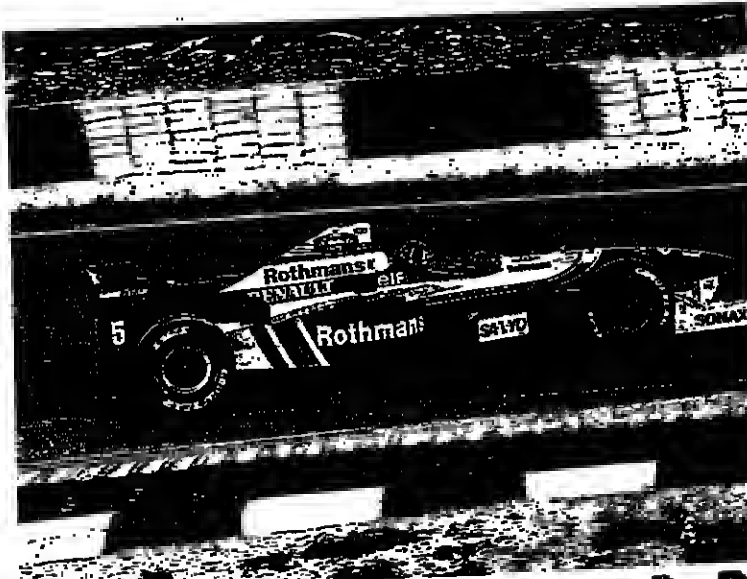
Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list printed below; the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category. Details of how to enter are given on this page. You can enter a team at any point during the grand prix season but the earlier you enter, the greater your chances of being our overall champion. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

HOW YOU SCORE

Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers.

All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows:

- The fastest driver in race-day warm-up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest.
- Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid position. Points are not deducted for losing places.
- Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth retirement.
- If your driver makes the quickest pitstop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.
- If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points.
- If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.
- If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points.
- The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance, worth five points.
- Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to take the start, no points are lost.
- Drivers removed from the results for any reason lose all points gained that weekend. Any driver not competing in a grand prix weekend scores no points.
- Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire.
- Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement penalties.



DREAM TEAM TOP PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car.

You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

BRITISH GRAND PRIX PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points following the British Grand Prix will win a very exclusive, limited edition Jordan Grand Prix watch, one of only one hundred made.

HOW TO ENTER

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 million.

Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805.

You will immediately be asked the entry question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Championship?

To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods. Method 1 uses a tone phone that lets you key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within budget and is eligible.

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win.

Once you have registered your team you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN number.

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score checking line.

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be registered per call.

CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

Rules

1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and seven minutes).
2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to that race.
3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes.
4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible.
5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Republic.
6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs.
7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life.
8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win.
9. For lost PIN numbers, call 0891 891 808. Helpline: 01275 344183.
10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

Make your selection from the Grand Prix

Shopping List

DRIVERS

£25m
1 M Schumacher
£23m
2 J Alesi
3 D Hill
£20m
4 G Berger
£18m
5 D Coulthard
6 E Irvine
7 J Villeneuve
£13m
8 M Hakkinen
9 H H. Frentzen
£10m
10 M Brundle
11 R Barrichello

12 J Herbert
£6m
13 M Salo
£4m
14 P Lamy
15 P Diniz
16 U. Katayama
17 J Verstappen
£3m
18 O. Panis
19 L Badoer
20 R. Rosset
21 A. Montemini
£2m
22 G. Fisichella
23 V. Sospiri
24 T. Marques

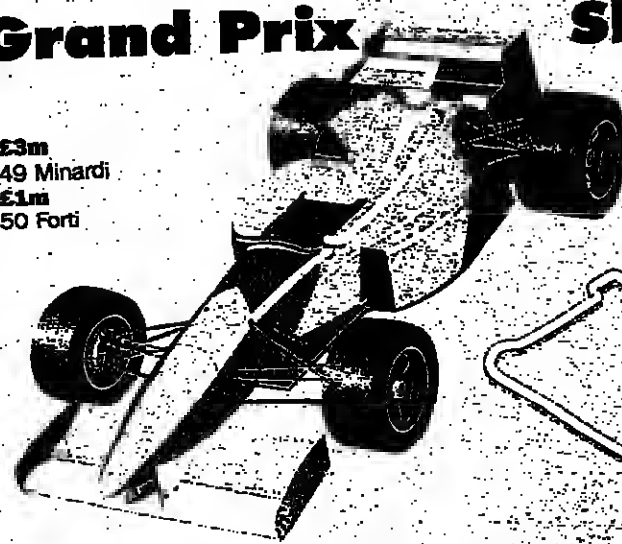
25 F. Lagorce*
26 H. Noda*
27 T. Inoue*
£1m
28 M. Blundell*
29 J-C. Boullion*
30 K. Brack*
31 K. Burt*
32 E. Collard*
33 N. Fontana*
34 D. Franchitti*
35 N. Larini*
36 J. Magnussen*
37 A. Prost*
38 G. Tarquini*
39 K. Wendlinger*

*Not competing in the British GP but may compete later

CHASSIS

£20m
40 Benetton
41 Williams
£18m
42 Ferrari
£15m
43 McLaren
£14m
44 Sauber
45 Jordan
£10m
46 Ligier
£8m
47 Tyrrell
£5m
48 Arrows

£3m
49 Minardi
£1m
50 Forti



THE SILVERSTONE
GRAND PRIX
CIRCUIT

ENGINE

£26m
51 Renault
£19m
52 Ferrari
£15m
53 Mercedes

£12m
54 Peugeot
£10m
55 Mugen
£8m
56 Ford V10
£6m
57 Yamaha
£4m
58 Hart
£3m
59 Ford Zetec
VB
£2m
60 Ford ED
VB

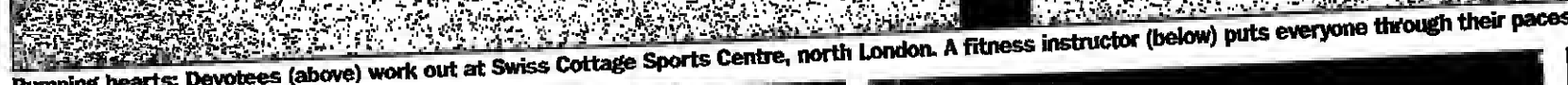


DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 891 805 • TEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 806
RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS: 0891 891 807

Supplies Ltd

By Mike Richards

Exercise Association 0171-278 0811; Fitness Wales 01222 520130
Fitness Scotland 0131-317 7243; Fitness Northern Ireland
01232 651103. British Amateur Weightlifting Association 01865
200339.



Photographs: Sarah Bancroft

Municipal gyms

Headwork Sports Centre
161 London Road, Edinburgh.
Owned and run by City of Edinburgh District Council.
First gym equipment installed in April 1994.
£25.00. Pay-as-you-play fee of £2.50, including
memberships. Monthly user card £30.50, three-
monthly user card £70.50-£125. Includes induction
and access to all facilities.
Facilities: More than 70 pieces of equipment, both
cardiovascular and resistance. The club allows ac-
cess to four other Pulse centres across the city.
Fully-staffed with supervised fitness sessions.
Gymnastics, Zumba and all age ranges - there
are supervised classes for children.
Tel: 0131 661 5351

Glooucester Health and Fitness Club
Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1DF
Owned and run by Gloucester City Council. Seven years old with equipment reviewed regularly.
Fees: From £29.80 a month (rising to £38.10 a month gold membership, which allows access to all the facilities and classes free of charge. Includes induction.
Facilities: Three gyms, including body shop (free weights), sauna; Turkish baths, keep fit and circuit training classes.
Clients: No under-17s, but otherwise broad age range of both sexes.
Telephone: 01452 307070

High-street clubs

Powerzone Health Club
68-70 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SF
Opened July 1998.
Pases One-off joining fee of £50, then £38 a month, £215 for six months; £360 for 12 months. Includes free induction, fitness test and programme and periodic reassessment.
Facilities: 7,000sqft open-plan gym with modern equipment, sauna and sunbeds. Always fully staffed.
Clientele: Currently late 20s to early 40s, men and women.
Telephone: 0181-246 6700

David Lloyd Club
Ispreich Road, Roath, Cardiff
Tennis centre with health and fitness section, which has a non-racket option. Opened October 1995.
Fees: One-off joining fee of £125 and then £34 month, includes induction; personal programme and eight-week update.
Facilities: 12,000sq ft gym with more than 15 pieces of equipment, 25m indoor pool, 20m outdoor pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna, hair and beauty centre. Fitness and dance classes available.
Clientele: Broad age range, including families of children.
Telephone: 01222 460046

Hawlowe Longe Health Farm
Hawlow, Bedfordshire ST16 6DS
Former private house turned into health farm in late 1980s.
Fees: Top-of-the-range membership is £1,100 a year, on top of a joining fee of £300.
Facilities: Indoor 25m pool, outdoor tennis courts, gym and personal fitness advisors, saunas, steam baths, saunas, dance and aerobic classes and nutritious beauty treatments.
 clientele: Well used by the famous, including actors and sports stars, as well as a combination of the two. Frank Bruno, who had a training camp here before one of his world-title fights.

Western Baths Club
Greenhill Street, Glasgow
Founded in 1876 and the second oldest swimming club in the world still in their own premises. House in listed building.
Fees: £170 joining fee, plus £300 a year. There are 18-month waiting list.
Facilities: Unusual length 30-yard indoor pool, magnificent hall, Turkish and Russian baths, sauna, sports hall with tennis, badminton and football gym, exercises and dance classes.
Comments: Despite long waiting list, does not consider itself an exclusive club and has members from all sections of society.
Tel: 0141-339 1127

1. Do join a gym with mirrors on the walls. Not just so you can get your hair right to impress your fellow members, but to help technique, especially if lifting free weights.
2. Do check the changing rooms. If the floor is dirty and rarely cleaned, you might end up with a first-class case of athlete's foot to go with your new muscles.
3. Do warm up before exercising and warm down afterwards. There should be enough room in the gym for you to do this.

- 4 Don't ensure the membership includes a regularly updated work programme designed for what you want to do. This is the point working on strengthening your upper body when all you want is to be able to run for the bus without collapsing in a heap.
- 5 Don't let the instructors rush you into signing up for a massive membership fee. Shop around, most gyms should give you a free introduction to their facilities before you have to join.
- 6 Don't rush straight to the heaviest weights. Take things slowly. It would be silly to pull a muscle or let frustration turn you back into a couch potato after only a few sessions.
- 7 Don't try to compete with the club members. They may be able to benchpress 160lb with their little finger but they may also have been training every day for the last 10 years.
- 8 Don't be afraid to ask if the instructors have proper qualifications (from BAWLA for example) and make sure they show you the correct technique for each machine, not just how they work.

PICK OF THE WEEK

FRIIDAY/Athletics
Securiton Games
Cyprus Palace National Sports Centre.

One of the final Grand Prix events before Atlanta comes to the London offering members of Britain's Olympic squad the chance to improve recent form and test heading in close quarters. Unified Christie runs in the 100m and will be looking to close ground on his international rivals. A time below 10.0 seconds will confirm improving form as he aims to peak physically in Atlanta. While Britain's athletes entertain, other top competitors from around the globe, the highlight of the evening could well be the men's 400m. Roger Black, reaching the best form of his career, leads a talented British field including Dariusz Ladojo, Ivan Thomas and the American Derek Mills.

Watch to get the best British time from London Masters run to Cyprus Palace arena about every 15 minutes.

WEDNESDAY/Cyprus Palace GR-Sprint, the National Sports Centre is a 6.30pm start.

There will be a 4.30pm start with the last week event commencing at 6.30pm.

PICK OF THE WEEKEND

SUNDAY/Motorsport
British Grand Prix
Silverstone

The F1 circus rolls into England this week offering spectators the opportunity to witness Britain's Demon Hill further consolidate his impressive lead in the world championship. If you were lucky enough to secure tickets in advance, a weekend of top-class racing is in prospect. Hill has been dominant, while defending champion Michael Schumacher struggles for reliability in his Ferrari. A victory in front of a partisan crowd will be Hill's firm objective but he will face formidable competition from the fast-improving McLarens of Ralf Schumacher and David Coulthard.

and his teammate Jacques Villeneuve will start from pole position.

How to get there: Silverstone Circuit, Towcester, Northamptonshire, MK12 8TN. On the M1, from the North leave at junction 19 or junction 18 from the ETL. From M40 leave at junction 10 from Northern or Southern routes, from the West or South-West take the A34 and A421. From the east take the A45, the A5 or A508. For further information call 01327 857271. On Friday a P.A.S. or A.S.O.B. For further information call 01327 857271. On Friday a Practice walkabout for holders of reserved centre parking begins at 7.30am. Practice starts at 10am with the race beginning at 2pm on Sunday.

Next week

[illegible]

Plan ahead

Plan ahead

Racing was introduced to Goodwood by the third Duke of Richmond in 1801. For many years, the officers had held their annual races in the park at Petersham Park. When this was no longer possible the Duke of Richmond came to their rescue by laying out a course on that part of the Goodwood Estate known as The Harroway.

The Goodwood Cup was run for the first time in 1812, and two years later the date of the meeting was changed from May to its now long tradition of one in late July.

Bearing little resemblance to its earlier traditions, the July Festival meeting is now by far Goodwood's biggest Race meeting of the year. "Glorious Goodwood" commences on Tuesday 30 July and runs for five days to Saturday 3 August. While the racing offers visitors top class racing, the highlight of the festival is the "Glorious Goodwood" Dinner and the "Glorious Goodwood" Summer Stakes.

Scheduled for 2.15pm on Wednesday, the Sussex Stakes sees the return to racecourse action of the 1,000 Guineas winner, Bosra Sham. While some sections of the grounds (notably the Richmond Enclosure) are only available to club members, there are still plenty of tickets remaining with concessions available for £10.

JULY FESTIVAL MEETING (30 July-3 August, Richmond Enclosure): is available to Members only; Gordon Enclosure: Available to paying members of the public: £16; £14 - party rate 20 or more; £13 - party rate 40 or more. Public Enclosure: £5.50; £5 - party rate 20 or more; £4.50 - party rate 40 or more. (Group concessions are only available when booked in advance). Accompanied children under 17 are admitted free to all enclosures, except in the Richmond Enclosure, for the duration of the July

Car parking is available on the rails in the 2 Fur-
long Picnic Park, to include admission for up to four
occupants into the public enclosure for £1. Meeting -
per day £30. Public pay car parks in close prox-
imity to the grandstand are also available at £2 per
day (disabled) parking is available on request.

Goodwood Racecourse is within easy reach of Lon-
don, Brighton and Southampton. Regular train ser-
vices operate from London Victoria Rail to Chichester
and from Waterloo to Haslemere. Bus services are
also available from Chichester. Call Goodwood on
01243-776207 for further information, race times
and booking details.

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venue should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Alister Morgan

Telekom conspire to cut off the French



Arrivederci: The Tour de France turns its back on Italy as the peloton heads up the first climb out of Turin en route for the French border and then Gap yesterday

Photograph: Pascal Rondeau/Airsport



Did you guess our hidden personality?

Representing Queen and country, this HGV licence holder and former Army cross-country champion looks poised to bulldoze her way to Olympic glory. So respected is Kelly Holmes' reputation that the Army are now basing their recruitment drive on her success. Her twin dreams as a 14-year-old, to join the Services and to compete in the Olympics, are now nearing fruition.

ROBIN NICHOLL
with the Tour de France

If they were not wearing the Dannebrog, their national flag, the Danes were waving it as Bjarne Riis returned in triumph to France after taking over the yellow jersey on the Italian leg of the Tour de France.

Chaotically his came from Turin through to the Gap finish, some wore plastic Viking helmets. All wore big grins, and Rolf Sorensen rated it close to the biggest disappointment of his life that he could not give his countrymen more to chant about.

Five hundred metres from the finish line, the Dane's lone drive for victory came to an end as he was engulfed by a mass of sprinting riders after he had been chased down a mountain road into Gap.

Two years ago Sorensen won a Tour stage at Montpellier to match the previous day's victory by Riis in Albi, but Riis would not have been dismayed by yesterday's outcome. It may not have been a Danish triumph, but his German teammate, Erik Zabel, got his front wheel to the line first, and from that success another Tour jersey fell to Riis's Deutsche Telekom squad.

After Riis's win on Monday at Sestriere, his fellow Dane felt it was appropriate to repeat the 1994 act. He fought off a strong challenge from the Italian Bruno Cenghialta, who had him in sight at one point and appeared poised to pounce, but in the finishing straight he could feel the hot breath of the pack on his back. He glanced behind and eased up, and in that final stretch lost 28 seconds as 40 riders swept past, with Zabel leading the charge.

Sorensen's chagrin was nothing to that of the French. Zabel had ousted the Frenchman Frederic Moncassin from the green points jersey that he had held for a week after losing the yellow.

Earlier on the 208km (129 miles) leg, Laurent Jalabert, who had raised French hopes that he was a Tour victor in the making over the past two years,

lowered them with a bump. The world No 1, suffering with gastroenteritis, retired without making it back into France on his bike.

It was 20km from the border that a fatigued Jalabert stopped riding, but his compatriots were far from finished. Jacky Durand had tried and failed to make a clean break after gaining nearly four minutes on the main field.

Then Laurent Madouas forged ahead, and from a counter-attack the Larviao Piotr Ugrumov, Jan Ullrich, another Telekom find, and Richard Virenque joined him for a ride through the kind of countryside that inspires the production of picture postcards.

They were eventually drawn in when Ullrich refused to help his co-leaders with the pace-making, and the most promising move of the day died after a spirited ride that lasted for 70km.

Huge crowds gathered outside his lodgings when Napoleon stopped in Gap on his return from exile in Elba more than 180 years ago. He is said to have cleared a blocked chimney by firing his pistol up the flue. He then appeared at the window, somewhat sooty, to reassure the crowd.

Now only Virenque can play Napoleon to the demands of the French fans. Apart from his mountaineering ability, he is also seventh overall, and the only Frenchman in sight of the yellow jersey.

Today is the riders' official rest day but yesterday six of them, including Jalabert, decided it was time they took a longer rest. Among them was the Belgian champion Johan Bruyneel, who has an Achilles tendon injury, and given that he suffered the alarming experience of plunging from a mountain pass three days ago, he is fortunate that is all that is damaged.

The race resumes tomorrow with a 202km (126 miles) leg from Gap to Valence with a series of small mountains that could do as much damage as one major Alpine peak.

Yesterday: Stage 10

Turin to Gap, 129 miles



Virenque, covered in the red spots of the mountains jersey, could be France's saviour on the Paris podium come 21 July. His aim yesterday was maximum mountain points at the top of Montgenèvre. He got them and another seven at the summit of the Col de la Seotnelle to strengthen his quest for a hat-trick of these jerseys.

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Chris Boardman is now at the point where he was in 1994 when he completed 11 days in his first Tour. With Moncassin's jersey challenge weakened, he could have the freedom to try for a stage win.

Greater matters occupy Miguel Indurain. The Spaniard is still 4min 38sec away from that sixth year in the yellow jersey, and Riis, with a lead of 40sec over the Russian Yevgeny Berzin, looks ready to take on all comers.

TOUR DE FRANCE: 10th stage (208km, 129 miles). Turin, 11.30 Gap, 17.15. 1st: 1. J. Ullrich (Ger) Telekom 5hr 59m 10sec; 2. D. Moncassin (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 3. R. Sorensen (Den) 6hr 1m 10sec; 4. P. Ugrumov (Ukr) 6hr 1m 10sec; 5. E. Zabel (Ger) 6hr 1m 10sec; 6. R. Virenque (Fra) 6hr 1m 10sec; 7. F. Moncassin (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 8. J. Bruyneel (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 9. M. Indurain (Esp) 6hr 1m 10sec; 10. L. Madouas (Fra) 6hr 1m 10sec; 11. J. Durand (Fra) 6hr 1m 10sec; 12. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 13. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 14. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 15. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 16. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 17. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 18. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 19. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 20. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 21. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 22. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 23. J. L. Planckaert (Bel) 6hr 1m 10sec; 24. J. L. 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